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2022

1.1 September

1.1.1 Martha's Vineyard in State of Emergency Over Migrants Arriving From Florida (2022-09-15 14:19)

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) flew two planes with migrants to Martha's Vineyard in the latest move by some governors to relocate the endless groups of people to other states.

"Florida can confirm the two planes with illegal immigrants that arrived in Martha's Vineyard today were part of the state's relocation program to transport illegal immigrants to sanctuary destinations. States like Massachusetts, New York, and California will better facilitate the care of these individuals who they have invited into our country by incentivizing illegal immigration through their designation as 'sanctuary states' and support for the Biden Administration's open border policies," said Communications Director Taryn Fenske.

Here's a photo from the Martha's Vineyard Times.

* We have blurred the faces of the migrants standing with local officials [1]pic.twitter.com/9Myb799G4x— David Wade (@davidwade) [2]September 15, 2022

“Florida’s immigration relocation program both targets human smugglers found in Florida and preempts others from entering,” she added.

Dukes County, where Martha’s Vineyard is located in, has activated emergency shelters over the “unexpected urgent humanitarian situation.”

Due to an unexpected urgent [3] #humanitarian situation, [4] #DCEMA are opening [5] #Emergency [6] #Shelters tonight on [7] #MarthasVineyard. If you’re willing & able to volunteer in a clinical or non-clinical role, contact [8]@DukesOffice at 508-684-8015[9] #VolunteersNeeded [10] #HumanitarianAid [11] #DukesCounty—Dukes County Emergency Management Association (@DukesCountyEM) [12]September 15, 2022

Unusual story breaking here on the Vineyard. A plane load of migrant people was deposited at MV Airport. [13]@DukesCountyEM and other Island EM managers working to aid these folks. [14]@DukesOffice comm center meeting underway. [15]<https://t.co/YMG0wjDixd> [16]@TheMVTimes [17]pic.twitter.com/jQgbLloWGX—Rich Saltzberg (@rich_saltzberg) [18]September 14, 2022

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker (D) [19]signed a disaster declaration and mobilized 75 members of the Illinois

National Guard on Wednesday to provide more resources for the 500 migrants who were sent to Chicago from Texas, with more expected to arrive on a daily basis.

1. <https://t.co/9Myb799G4x>
2. https://twitter.com/davidwade/status/1570223616129646594?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
3. https://twitter.com/hashtag/humanitarian?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. https://twitter.com/hashtag/DCEMA?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
5. https://twitter.com/hashtag/Emergency?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
6. https://twitter.com/hashtag/Shelters?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
7. https://twitter.com/hashtag/MarthasVineyard?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
8. https://twitter.com/DukesOffice?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
9. https://twitter.com/hashtag/VolunteersNeeded?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
10. https://twitter.com/hashtag/HumanitarianAid?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
11. https://twitter.com/hashtag/DukesCounty?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
12. https://twitter.com/DukesCountyEM/status/1570214314396774400?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
13. https://twitter.com/DukesCountyEM?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
14. https://twitter.com/DukesOffice?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
15. <https://t.co/YMG0wjDixd>
16. https://twitter.com/TheMVTimes?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
17. <https://t.co/jQgbLloWGX>
18. https://twitter.com/rich_saltzberg/status/1570180273266102274?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
19. <https://news.wttw.com/2022/09/14/gov-pritzker-signs-disaster-declaration-mobilizes-national-guard-care-immigrants-arriving>

1.1.2 Pelosi's Snide Abortion Remarks are a Reminder of Democrats' Callous Extremism (2022-09-15 14:20)

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi — who is reportedly [1]sniffing around for a new job, perhaps because despite [2]her public comments, she doesn't believe she'll have the gavel much longer — once again weighed in on abortion yesterday, mocking pro-life Republicans. This is the snarky line that has been getting some attention, as was clearly the goal when she said it:

Pelosi: There are those in the Republican Party who think life begins at the candlelight dinner the night before. [3]pic.twitter.com/MrxNAUtpII— Acyn (@Acyn) [4]September 14, 2022

Many pro-lifers believe that human life begins at conception, for which there is a scientific basis. That's the position that Pelosi is ridiculing here, making it sound cartoonish and dismissing it as silly and frivolous. It also happens to be the stance of the Catholic Church. I only mention that because Pelosi ostentatiously reminds anyone who will listen about her [5]supposedly *very devout* Catholicism, though she's aggressively hostile to this particular value and teaching of her espoused faith. Her answer comes in the context of Sen. Lindsey Graham's 15-week abortion limitation bill, which is generating all sorts of criticism. The Left is screaming that it's a national abortion ban. It's not. It's a restriction on most late-term abortions, which is not the same thing at all. I'll address that more in a moment. On the Right, I've seen minimal criticism that Graham's bill doesn't go far enough. I've seen plenty of criticism that it's a distraction from issues like inflation, and poorly timed. This [6]intense exchange between Graham and Fox's Jesse Watters speaks to that dispute. I've also seen some Republicans like [7]Mitch McConnell say that certain members of the party would like to keep the issue at the state level, which was a major conservative talking point after the *Dobbs* decision was released. Elsewhere in her remarks, Pelosi dinged Republicans over this, too.

While I understand the point on timing — releasing an abortion bill on the day Democrats were having a [8]disastrous inflation 'celebration' — the substance of Graham's bill is solid. It is a very reasonable bill that falls squarely within [9]the American mainstream. A ban on most abortions after 15 weeks, with a few exceptions, is sensible, and even more permissive than laws on the books in many Western nations, including France. The United States has been a grotesque [10]pro-abortion global outlier for years. Democrats have been attacking Republicans in tons of ads over the prospect of total abortion bans, some featuring women getting arrested. This is a mischaracterization on several levels, but Republicans would be in a much better position debating a 15-week restriction than ceding the field to Democrats' distortions. Democrats would almost all oppose a policy that has majority support. This only helps underscore [11]their extremism on the issue, which they are not eager to talk about.

As for the 'leave it to the states' complaint, I understand it, but I think it's wrong. Republicans have voted to ban the heinous procedure of partial-birth abortion at the federal level (and guess who [12]once supported it). They [13]just recently voted for a 20-week ban at the federal level, which most Senate Democrats filibustered. Nearly every Democrat in Congress just recently supported a gruesome bill to nationalize our abortion laws, allowing abortion-on-demand, for any reason, through all nine months of pregnancy, funded by taxpayers. I believe that some abortion questions should be left to the states. Not all states are as pro-life or

pro-choice as others, and in our country, a top-down, one-size-fits-all policy isn't optimal. But protecting innocent life from elective late-term abortions seems entirely ethical, from a human rights perspective. "[14]Sensible and humane" is right. Not everyone agrees that life begins at conception, or that human life should be legally protected from that point forward. But there's a meaningful consensus that late-pregnancy elective abortions are wrong. This is not some meaningless, dehumanized clump of cells:

At 15 weeks, "Your baby is looking more like a little person, with eyelids, eyebrows, eyelashes, nails, hair, & well-defined fingers and toes. If you could see inside your womb, you'd catch your baby sucking a thumb, yawning, stretching, and making faces" [15]<https://t.co/BPPY512oBZ> [16]<https://t.co/vlpcXbSbj5> [17]pic.twitter.com/QtaqGJs2RC— John McCormack (@McCormackJohn) [18]September 13, 2022

That's a person, to me. At some point, an embryo becomes a fetus — and at some point, fetuses deserve rights. We don't all have the same views on when that point ought to be, but [19]a huge majority of us agree it's significantly before birth. Pelosi has no standing to lecture anyone else on abortion extremism. Short of endorsing compulsory abortions, she is as extreme as it comes. She's championed appalling 'no limits' legislation, and [20]wouldn't even condemn terrorist attacks against pro-life centers that help offer women a choice not to abort their pregnancies. While these organizations are fire-bombed and threatened for the offense of not being pro-abortion, elected Democrats are seeking to [21]persecute them politically, too. It's disgusting. Agree or disagree with Graham's proposal, it's much more moderate, reasonable, and widely-favored than Pelosi's ghoulish position.

1. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/leahbarkoukis/2022/09/06/pelosi-ambassadorship-n2612683>

2. <https://twitter.com/JakeSherman/status/1570015513211797504>

3. <https://t.co/MrxNAUtp1I>

4. https://twitter.com/Acyn/status/1570089778112237572?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

5. <https://www.politico.com/video/2022/06/16/im-a-very-catholic-person-pelosi-calls-out-politicization-of-abortion-rights-613393>

6. <https://www.mediaite.com/politics/jesse-watters-gives-lindsey-graham-an-earful-on-his-abortion-bill-roll-out-terrible-timing-terrible-tactics/>
 7. <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/3641225-mcconnell-throws-shade-on-grahams-proposed-national-abortion-ban/>
 8. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/guybenson/2022/09/13/obama-economist-august-inflation-report-is-bad-chances-for-a-soft-landing-are-down-n2613013>
 9. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/guybenson/2022/05/04/abortion-politics-democrats-dont-want-to-codify-roe-they-are-demanding-something-far-more-extreme-n2606719>
 10. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2017/10/09/is-the-united-states-one-of-seven-countries-that-allow-elective-abortions-after-20-weeks-of-pregnancy/>
 11. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/guybenson/2022/05/06/fact-check-no-democrats-arent-trying-to-codify-roe-with-radical-abortion-bill-n2606839>
 12. <https://twitter.com/McCormackJohn/status/1570031194498076676>
 13. <https://twitter.com/McCormackJohn/status/1569693718306750464>
 14. <https://www.nationalreview.com/2022/09/congress-should-work-to-end-infanticide-in-america/>
 15. <https://t.co/BPPY512oBZ>
 16. <https://t.co/vlpcXbSbJ5>
 17. <https://t.co/QtaqGJs2RC>
 18. https://twitter.com/McCormackJohn/status/1569508132002623489?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 19. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/guybenson/2019/07/08/attention-media-in-new-gallup-poll-60-percent-of-americans-say-abortion-should-be-rarely-or-never-legal-n2549>
 20. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/juliorosas/2022/06/16/pelosi-refuses-to-condemn-attacks-on-churches-and-pregnancy-centers-n2608850>
 21. <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/cortez-masto-joins-elizabeth-warrens-assault-on-crisis-pregnancy-centers/>
-

1.1.3 New Poll Shows Massive Improvement for Republican Senator Who Is Now in the Lead (2022-09-15 14:23)

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) has been considered one of the more vulnerable incumbents, but he's also not one to be underestimated. When he was first elected in 2010, it was because he beat an incumbent, then Sen. Russ Feingold, a Democrat. He beat him again in a 2016 rematch, too. Now, he's going up against Mandela Barnes, the state's lieutenant governor. While polls have shown Johnson with only a narrow lead, or even Barnes in the lead, there's one recent poll that can't be ignored when it comes to how good it is for Johnson.

On Wednesday, the Marquette University Law School released its most recent poll, which examined the race between Johnson and Barnes, among other races and issues. The poll showed that Johnson has a lead of 48 percent with registered voters, to Barnes' 47 percent. The senator also has a 1 percentage point lead when it comes to voters "absolutely certain" to vote, of 49 percent to 48 percent. The most pronounced lead is among those "very likely" to vote, where it's 49 percent for Johnson to Barnes' 47 percent.

In Senate race: Among all registered voters, it is Johnson 48 % and Barnes 47 %. Among those who are either certain or "very likely" to vote, it is Johnson 49 % and Barnes 47 %, Among only those "absolutely certain" to vote, it is Johnson 49 %, Barnes 48 %. #mulawpoll

— MULawPoll (@MULawPoll) September 14, 2022

WISCONSIN SENATE POLLING

Marquette:

(R) Ron Johnson 49 % (+1)

(D) Mandela Barnes 48 %

8 point shift towards Johnson in a Month

NRCC (R):

(R) Ron Johnson 49 % (+4)

(D) Mandela Barnes 45 % <https://t.co/GrXmVSG4s4> [pic.twitter.com/G72mwwWHmx](https://t.co/G72mwwWHmx)

— InteractivePolls (@IAPolls2022) September 15, 2022

It's true that the lead is only 1 percentage point, 2 at the most, and is within the margin of error of plus or minus 4.3 percent for registered voters and plus or minus 4.9 percent for likely voters. It's also worth emphasizing, though, that Johnson has seen an incredible shift.

Last month, among registered voters, Barnes led with 52 percent to Johnson's 45 percent. Among registered voters, he led 51 percent to Johnson's 44 percent. That's a shift of at least 7 percentage points, 8 when it comes to registered voters.

That August poll was conducted almost immediately after Barnes officially won the primary to challenge Johnson.

The poll also asked voters about the gubernatorial race between Gov. Tony Evers (D-WI) and Republican challenger Tim Michels. Although not as tight, it's still a close race and is getting closer. Evers leads by 3 percentage points among likely voters, with 47 percent to Michels' 44 percent. Last month, he led 48 percent to Michels' 44 percent. It's even closer among registered voters, with Evers leading 44 percent to Michels' 43 percent. Last month he led 45 percent to Michels' 43 percent among such voters.

Recommended

Fetterman's Murderous Campaign Aides: How It Really Happened

Ann Coulter

Evers is also among the least popular governors in the country, according to data from Morning Consult released in July.

Who is America's most popular governor? With 74 % approval ratings, Wyoming Republican Mark Gordon and Vermont Republican Phil Scott top the list. <https://t.co/ScFFj3iV86> [pic.twitter.com/GHMUUtroQJ](https://t.co/GHMUUtroQJ)

— Morning Consult (@MorningConsult) July 19, 2022

This most recent poll was conducted September 6-11, with 801 registered Wisconsin voters.

Forecasters differ on how they regard Johnson's race, with Cook Political Report only seeing it as a "Toss-Up," while Sabato's Crystal Ball says it's "Lean Republican" and Inside Elections says it's "Tilt Republican." Decision Desk HQ currently has the race at "Likely Republican," and gives Johnson a 93 percent chance of winning.

Evers' race is across the board regarded as a "Toss-Up." He was first elected in 2018, when he beat out incumbent Gov. Scott Walker, 49.5 percent to 48.4 percent.

1.1.4 McConnell Decimates Biden With One Line As Disastrous Rail Strike Looms (2022-09-15 14:31)

The number of crises the Biden administration has failed to resolve could fill the tanks of the entire fishing fleet on Deadliest Catch and then some. The serial incompetence from the Biden White House remains a pervasive characteristic that isn't dissipating with time. We have an economy in recession, high inflation, and now a crashing stock market over the latest figures from the consumer price index, which were outright disastrous. Wall Street had its worst day in two years yesterday, wiping [1]at least \$1.5 trillion off the books.

Little do people know that this administration has tried to avert total disaster amid [2]a rail strike set to effect Friday at midnight. Thirty percent of the nation's freight would be shuttered, and the cost per day to the US economy will be around \$2 billion. Most passenger and commuter rail services will also cease operating. Ten of the twelve major railway unions have agreed to the new agreements, though the two largest, which represent engineers and conductors, has not signed off. They still have lingering questions about sick leave and penalties for missing work. Thus far, these two are holding their ground, while the other ten unions said they would also strike in solidarity.

As Spencer wrote, the Biden White House has been trying to overcome these negotiation road-blocks *since the spring*. They [3]also have no contingency plan, and airfreight is not an acceptable or efficient alternate mode of transportation for goods. The military is not also a viable option since they don't have the training to operate the machinery.

It's stunning that the Biden administration has been incapable of hashing out an agreement with the unions for months. Then again, when you think about it, with Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg at the head of the negotiating table—it's not a shocking development. Joe Biden, Mr. labor union and working class, is about to own a massive rail strike that could devastate the economy even further while also cannibalizing the marginal gains Democrats have made post-inflation bill is a remarkable feat in the inept Olympics.

The irony is astounding, which was not lost on Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), who hurled a brutal swipe at

the president and his pro-labor union bona fides. Regardless, Biden's team does face a political atom bomb should a strike occur, and so far, we're all riding on a crazy train towards it. Some are calling for Congress to impose a settlement to avert a strike, which will undoubtedly upset a critical cornerstone of the Democratic Party's base (via [4]Politico) [emphasis mine]:

The

White House was making it known that President Joe Biden is on the case, telling reporters that Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and his agency are leading an effort to blunt a strike's effects on critical resources such as food, drinking water and electricity. At least two other Cabinet secretaries have tried to help the railroads and unions reach a deal, and Biden himself has spoken directly with both sides of the labor dispute.

A work stoppage would still inflict major trauma for the economy and the president's party, threatening to leave consumers with soaring prices and bare store shelves less than two months before the midterm elections. That means maximum leverage for all sides of the dispute, including unions seeking to wrest more concessions from the railroads over working conditions.

It also

puts Democrats into a bind over whether Congress should impose a settlement to avert a strike, over the objections of their allies in the labor movement — a predicament Republicans were eager to exploit.

"The

president is bragging about how much influence he has with unions and how much influence they have with him," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters Tuesday.

Other Republicans said

they would push the Senate to vote on imposing a settlement, a stance backed by business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, even as many Democrats called for giving the two sides more time to reach a deal.

[...]

Railroads are crucial for transporting all manner of commodities including food crops, fuel, cattle and building materials — and halting it would cost the economy \$2 billion a day, according to the Association of American Railroads.

Almost 40 percent of the

nation's long-distance freight ton-miles move on rail, more than any other mode of transportation. That's far more than freight than the trucking industry, still mired in labor shortages of its own, could possibly absorb.

At the heart of the dispute is a compromise

proposal that an emergency board appointed by Biden issued last month. While most of the unions have tentatively agreed to those terms or

appear close to doing so, train conductors and engineers say they will hold out for more protections against what they call harsh work rules.

If

the parties can't agree on their own, the only way to avoid a strike falls to Congress. But lawmakers typically dislike getting involved in contract disputes, and Democrats are particularly allergic to stepping into the fracas.

Besides Amtrak bracing for a strike

by shutting down long-distance rail routes, goods transported by rail are starting to slow, which couldn't come at a worse time for farmers and others in the agriculture sector who are bracing for harvest time.

1. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/spencerbrown/2022/09/13/stock-market-has-worst-day-since-june-2020-n2613040>
2. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/spencerbrown/2022/09/13/white-house-briefing-135-n2613020>
3. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/spencerbrown/2022/09/13/white-house-briefing-135-n2613020>
4. <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/09/13/white-house-rail-strike-democrats-00056433>

Anonymous (2022-09-15 14:40:57)

Couple questions. What was at the heart of the labor dispute? What does a regular schedule at the railroad look like? And finally, Who is arbitrating, Secretary of Transportation, or Secretary of Labor?

1.1.5 Kenosha Riot “Man-who-shot-first” Is Finally in Jail After Crime Binge...for Now (2022-09-19 21:35)

The *Kenosha County Eye* is [1]reporting

that Joshua Ziminsky, the man who either fired a “warning shot” in the air or perhaps took a pot shot at Kyle Rittenhouse, is behind bars after allegedly committing a bumper crop of crimes with his Antifa princess wife, Kelly Ziminsky.

BREAKING: Man who shot at Kyle Rittenhouse first charged with 6 felonies

That Newsweek hit piece is not aging well [2]<https://t.co/ixg2I9ZzHG>

— NO JUSTICE NO SLEEP POSO ✖ (@JackPosobiec) [3]September 14, 2022

The creepy-looking Ziminsky, bedazzled with many tattoos, including an upside-down cross on his forehead and the word “Sin” tattooed [4]on the back of his noggin, was previously arrested for his role in Kenosha’s 2020 riots and charged with arson, obstructing an officer, disorderly conduct, and use of a dangerous weapon. He also fired a shot moments before Kyle Rittenhouse ventilated serial child rapist Joseph Rosenbaum in self-defense.

FACT-O-RAMA! Joseph Rosenbaum spent a decade in prison for raping little boys. In a legendary moment, Tucker Carlson said [5]this of him: “Rosenbaum then chased Rittenhouse and tried to pull the gun from his hands. When he did that, Kyle Rittenhouse shot him. So, Joseph Rosenbaum died as he had lived, trying to touch an unwilling minor.”

Kenosha’s commie District Attorney Michael Graveley waited five months to charge Ziminsky and only did so after [6]pressure from angry locals tired of seeing miscreants treated with kid gloves.

COMMIE-O-RAMA! Gaige Grosskreutz, who pulled a gun on Kyle Rittenhouse before Kyle perforated his bicep, was never

charged with brandishing or illegally concealing a pistol. (Grosskreutz had a concealed pistol permit in the past but [7]not during the Kenosha riots.)

Despite all the charges, Ziminsky was held on a mere \$1,000 bond. Judge Bruce Schroeder, who also presided over the Rittenhouse trial, boosted it to \$13,000, and Ziminsky was released.

Ziminsky was supposed to stand trial in January 2022 but the trial was postponed when the court found out he threatened a witness.

Related: [8]*Rittenhouse Takes the Stand. Why?*

Ziminsky dodged jail and stayed free and like most street communists, he racked up an impressive list of crimes. He and his wife, whom he once [9]gentlemanly punched in the face while she was driving, were recently arrested for a cornucopia of crimes:

- Armed Robbery
- Armed Burglary
- False Imprisonment
- Intimidation of Victim
- ID Theft
- Battery

All of these are felonies except “battery,” which is a misdemeanor. Ziminsky was also nailed with bail jumping, another felony. Now that he is facing six saucy felonies, we can go to sleep knowing the vile villain is going to the hoosegow, right?

Not so fast, amigo. The legacy street slug has a [10]history of having his charges reduced to misdemeanors, thanks to the Marxists in the DA’s office.

Kenosha Police Lieutenant John DeMario [11]confirmed to the *Kenosha County Eye* that the charges will be recommended to the pinkos in the DA’s office, but we all know that means nothing. It seems the only way to keep Ziminsky in jail would be if he defended himself against street animals. After all, Kyle Rittenhouse spent three months in the pokey after shooting three attackers, one holding a gun, in self-defense, for which he was found not guilty on all charges.

1. <https://kenoshacountyeye.com/2022/09/13/kenosha-rioting-duo-including-man-who-shot-first-in-jail-holding-on-six-felonies-including-armed-robbery-burglary/>
2. <https://t.co/ixg2I9ZzHG>
3. https://twitter.com/JackPosobiec/status/1569950534605357057?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. <https://kenoshacountyeye.com/2022/09/13/kenosha-rioting-duo-including-man-who-shot-first-in-jail-holding-on-six-felonies-including-armed-robbery-burglary/>
5. <https://www.dailywire.com/news/tucker-a-rapist-called-joseph-rosenbaum-died-as-he-had-lived-trying-to-to-uch-an-unwilling-minor>
6. <https://kenoshacountyeye.com/2022/09/13/kenosha-rioting-duo-including-man-who-shot-first-in-jail-holding-on-six-felonies-including-armed-robbery-burglary/>
7. <https://www.wisconsinrightnow.com/2021/11/08/gaige-grosskreutz-testifies/>
8. <https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/kevindowneyjr/2021/11/10/rittenhouse-takes-the-stand-why-n1531534>
9. <https://kenoshacountyeye.com/2021/12/22/serious-domestic-battery-charges-against-joshua-ziminski-dismiss-ed-only-weeks-before-his-arson-trial/>
10. <https://kenoshacountyeye.com/2021/12/22/serious-domestic-battery-charges-against-joshua-ziminski-dismiss-ed-only-weeks-before-his-arson-trial/>
11. <https://kenoshacountyeye.com/2022/09/13/kenosha-rioting-duo-including-man-who-shot-first-in-jail-holding-on-six-felonies-including-armed-robbery-burglary/>

1.1.6 Martha's Vineyard Claims It Doesn't Have Room for Immigrants, but Airbnb and Hotels.com Show Otherwise (2022-09-19 21:36)

No room at the inn? Residents of Martha's Vineyard, a haven for wealthy Democrats, liberals, and [1]Blue Anons, had their chance to put their money where their virtue-signaling lawn signs are and embrace 50 illegal immigrants, hilariously flown in by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Instead, they relied on the military to have them "deported" to a Massachusetts National Guard Base on Cape Cod, another vacation destination for the well-to-do, though not as luxurious as Martha's Vineyard, where Barack Obama owns a massive \$12 million mansion.

Simpsons predicted Martha's Vineyard incident back in 1954!
[2]<https://t.co/LhKztfawlX>

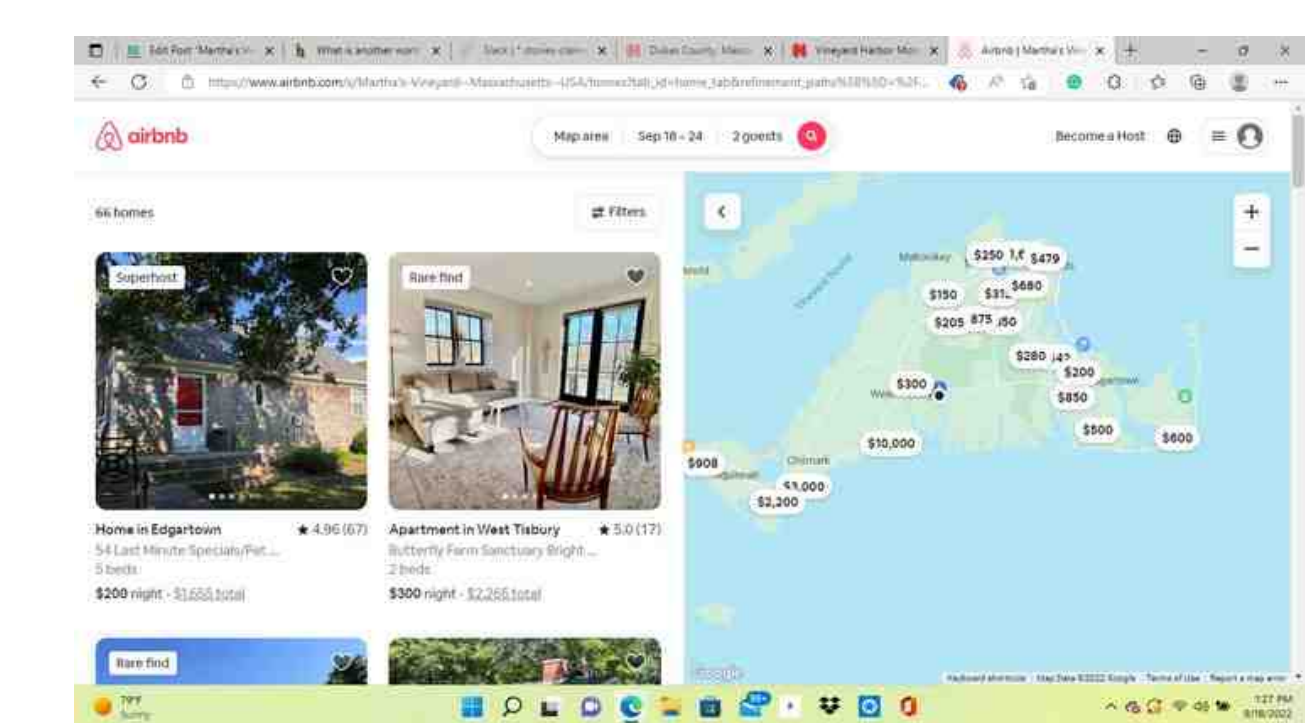
— 0.0. 0000 (@qtomris) [3]September 15, 2022

FACT-O-RAMA! Folks from nearby states refer to obnoxious people from Massachusetts as "Massholes."

Martha's Vineyard took roughly [4]44 hours to exile the immigrants to the mainland. Residents claimed they didn't have room for the 50 travelers. Let's check Hotels.com and Airbnb for

the reality.

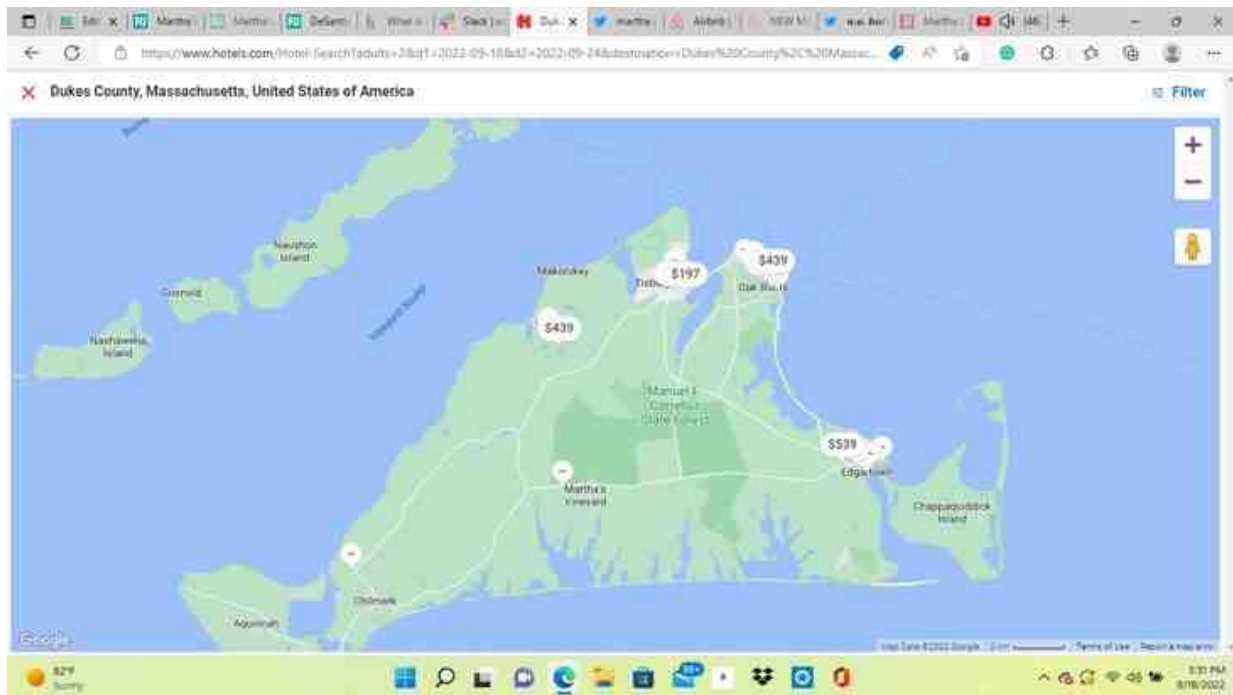
Vineyard Haven Harbor or an easy walk to the fun in Oak Bluffs.



Screenshot from Airbnb

SOCIALISM-O-RAMA! Most of the 50 immigrants flown to Martha's Vineyard are from Venezuela, a nation rocked by socialist ideals, many of which the Vineyard denizens preach themselves. I guess the 50 living examples of socialist irony wandering on their island weren't enough of a wake-up call.

I checked Hotels.com, and there are seven places with multiple rooms available should the 50 immigrants invite their families and friends for a reunion on the playground of the rich, liberal, and resoundingly hypocritical.



Screenshot from hotels.com

It seems there are plenty of rooms available after all. Then why would the wealthy Democrats not want the illegal immigrants to find respite on Martha's Vineyard?

Related: [6]DeSantis Doubles Down, Says Flights to Martha's Vineyard 'Just the Beginning'

Elizabeth Osborn Bostrom, a resident of Martha's Vineyard, said what all the elite Vineyard bolshies are thinking. She [7]told the *New York Post* that she "stayed out of town most of the day to avoid the commotion." and that "people here leave their doors open. It's safe and there's no real crime, usually. I'm not upset they came here, but I'm a little wary. I have my doors locked."

In other words, She doesn't want to see them, and she doesn't trust them. Sounds a little racist to me.

Martha's Vineyard officials sent the "unwanted, potential criminals" away to cheaper real estate where the wealthy won't have to look at them, but then again, the island has always catered to wealthy, powerful Democrats.

FACT-O-RAMA! Martha's Vineyard is where you'll find Chappaquiddick, where the "lion of the Senate" Ted Kennedy, a legendary philanderer and dipsomaniac, left a party where he "wasn't drinking" with a woman who was "not" his girlfriend and crashed his car into a pond. He didn't report it to the police for 10 hours. He was "somehow" never indicted.

Some have [8]called on former president Barack Obama to use his sprawling Martha's Vineyard estate for tents to house the Venezuelans, but the island had already swept the unwanted immigrants elsewhere, so the Bamster got to dodge that bullet.

NOT IN MY BACKYARD-O-RAMA! Barack Obama was cool with bringing in hundreds of members of the vicious MS-13 gang to the U.S. under the Deferred Action for the Arrival of Children (DACA) program, even though the gang would be linked to [9]almost 500 crimes in 22 states by February 2018. But local officials saw to it that the Obamas would never have to gaze upon the dirty faces of those pesky illegal immigrants while vacationing in the Vineyard.

Martha's Vineyard should consider itself lucky. Texas recently had to deal with [10]46 dead immigrants in a truck. They were basically cooked to death in the Texas summer heat. Some miscreants poured steak seasoning on the hot bodies to hide the stench.

Let's wrap up with this funny video from my friends at "Jokes and a Point." They know what's up, and they like to hammer the commies. Remember, conservatives are WAY funnier than libs.

1. <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Blue%20Anon>
2. <https://t.co/LhKztfawIx>
3. https://twitter.com/qtomris/status/1570424220215033857?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. <https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/marthas-vineyard-rallies-relief-effort-migrants-shipping-them-cape-cod-military-base>
5. https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/34082595?adults=2&check_in=2022-09-18&check_out=2022-09-24&federated_search_id=0b500430-2981-481b-9b10-d3a5af00ed72&source_impressi
6. <https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/ryanledendecker/2022/09/17/desantis-doubles-down-says-flights-to-marthas-vineyard-just-the-beginning-n1630248>
7. <https://nypost.com/2022/09/16/marthas-vineyard-local-obamas-should-house-migrants/>
8. <https://nypost.com/2022/09/16/marthas-vineyard-local-obamas-should-house-migrants/>
9. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/ms-13-spreads-to-22-states-fed-by-300-000-illegals-daca-recipients-tied-to-207-murders>
10. <https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/kevindowneyjr/2022/06/28/horror-at-least-46-migrants-dead-in-a-truck-bodies-sprinkled-with-steak-seasoning-n1608765>

1.1.7 AOC Says Illegal Migrants Are a 'Blessing,' Despite Dems Shipping Them Off Martha's Vineyard ASAP (2022-09-19 21:37)

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) is at it again, accusing Republicans of being politically motivated when her own party is the one who plays that game with Americans.

She called Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla) recent action of sending illegal migrants to the swanky island of Martha's Vineyard "crimes against humanity," accusing him of "trafficking" people just to get votes ahead of the November midterms.

It's appalling that far-right politicians seem to have decided that fall before an election is their regularly scheduled time to commit crimes against humanity on refugees.

Don't normalize this. Lying to & trafficking people for TV and clicks isn't politics as usual. It's abuse.— Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (@AOC) [1]September 16, 2022

She hasn't complained once about the border crisis that President Joe Biden has created because it helps her party. However as soon as Republican governors began to bring awareness to the issue, AOC has a problem with it.

But not for the right reason.

Instead of admitting that Biden's open border policies are causing havoc on the country, she spins the story and puts the blame on Republicans, such as DeSantis and Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX) who are tired of the Democrat's games and taking measures into their own hands.

For calling illegal immigrants a "blessing" with so much to offer, Democrats sure did ship them off the island as quickly as possible.

If only that effort would go into actually securing the border stuff like this wouldn't happen, however that would mean the Left would have to actually do something legal and for the U.S. for once.

Additionally, the squad member is welcoming more illegal migrants into her home state of New York as residents are needing to make an extra \$50 per hour in order to even afford a two-bedroom apartment.

What a lot of Republican politicians fail to understand is that not everyone shares their zero-sum, scarcity mindset.

Many of us understand that immigrants and refugees are a blessing. They have so much to offer our country, & much of our growth as a nation is because of them.?? [2]<https://t.co/AEVdPQCMAi>— Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (@AOC) [3]September 16, 2022

1. https://twitter.com/AOC/status/1570887793559347200?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

2. <https://t.co/AEVdPQCMAi>

3. https://twitter.com/AOC/status/1570828755932946433?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

15 Reasons People Play Video Games

People of all ages play video games for many different reasons. Video games serve a purpose and everyone plays for a reason. Identifying your motivation to play can be helpful to maintain moderation or shift your desire to other activities.

Whether you are a gamer yourself, a concerned parent or loved one, or a professional interested in learning more about the gaming world, this article is for you.

Why people play video games:

Novelty

Novelty or variety keeps life interesting, fun, and engaging. Video games give you the opportunity to do something new. With over 1 million games out there, there are endless amounts of new gaming experiences.

You can play a Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game (MMORPG) like [1]World of Warcraft and experienced novelty with each territory you discover. You can form alliances, make friends, complete quests, and obtain items. All these experiences can be novel.

You can play a Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA) game like [2]League of Legends and experience novelty with every character you play. Unlike World of Warcraft, players in League of Legends play in the same environment or map every game. There are some cosmetic changes depending on the season, but it's mostly the same. The novelty comes with playing different characters. As of August 2020, there are 150 characters or champions in League of Legends. That's a lot of novelty.

Role-play games (RPG) are games allow you to create and develop a character. Games like Skyrim and the Diablo games are RPGs where you can experience novelty in the game itself and through each character you make. You can play the entire game of [3]Skyrim using one character then use a completely different one and have a different experience.

Competency or Mastery

Competence is made up of feeling mastery and control over something. Many video games require skill to play well. In games like [4]Overwatch, [5]Valorant, or [6]Rainbow 6: Siege, gamers compete against each other in real time. Your reaction speed, map awareness, aim, landing skill-shots, dodging skill shots, farming, and overall game knowledge are all skills that require some level of mastery to play well and win matches.

Gamers will play the same game for thousands of hours because they want to master their skills. Back to the 150 champions to play from in League of Legends, some play one champion for over 10,000 hours. One map. One champion. One game. All with the drive to get better and improve their rank or standing in the game. People love the pursuit of mastery and video games are a great way to pursue that.

Video games offer a safe place to improve your skill and get better at something. Some video games have a high skill cap – high level of difficulty to become masterful. However, those same games also help beginners get involved by giving them positive reinforcement for the little good things they do. Even if they stink, there are natural motivators in games to bring them back for more. They get rewards the more they play. And the more they play, the more masterful they become.

Exploration and Freedom

Games like Rust, Ark, or World of Warcraft give players the ability to roam free in a digital world. You are able to do almost anything in these virtual worlds. We can explore external or internal environments.

External Exploration

Through quests and objectives, games are designed to help you explore. You don't have to do the quests, but you can. You have the option to just explore the world and do what you want with no rules or boundaries. The Fallout games allow for environmental exploration. They are open worlds with objectives to complete. Exploring the virtual environments is exciting because you never know what you will discover.

Internal Exploration

RPGs allow you to take on any identity you want. You can be a confident, strong warrior online but feel timid and weak in real-life. Video games offer you a chance to explore any identity you wish. If you are a female in real-life, you can express yourself as a male online. If you are unsure what identify as, you can explore different genders and roles online through games.

A beautiful thing about video games is anonymity. Online gaming can give you the space to be yourself and explore [7]different personalities in a safe environment without anyone knowing you in the physical world. This gives players comfort in being able to freely explore thoughts and feelings they might not feel comfortable doing anywhere else.

Risk-Taking

There are three main types of risks in video games: competitive, quest, and social.

Competitive Risk

Games like League of Legends, [8]Fortnite, and Rainbow 6: Siege are games that require some level of skill to do well. You can play safe or risky. There is excitement and some danger, not real danger, but virtual danger the riskier you play. The risk is you could lose the game or match, resulting in a loss of your rank.

Quest Risk

There are in-game risks from story driven or character driven games like the Witcher and Fallout. You have something similar to a morality

tracker. How you interact with the townspeople or in-game characters determines if they will be kind or hostile. If you are kind and do positive actions, you will get rewards. If you are a jerk, there are consequences.

Social Risk

Many video games are played with others. There is risk involved in how you play and interact with others in real time. Games that allow you to play in an open world like World of Warcraft allows you to interact with others in real time and there is risk in how you socialize. You could randomly hit someone in-game for no reason and it could have a bad consequence. Or you could befriend others.

You can raid, or invade another player's structure, in games like Rust and Ark. You fight with others and risk losing your items. You can make a friend and work together for a common cause. You can backstab that friend and take all their stuff. All of these social interactions online are risky.

A Safe Place to Fail

Video games also allow you a safe place to fail. You can safely take as many risks as you want. If you die while trying to beat a boss, you simply start over. If you don't win the competitive match, you play another one. If you have a poor interaction with another gamer, you can talk with someone else. Gamers have a much safer place to fail online than in the physical world.

Failing is good!

It's healthy to learn how to fail well. We can fail and give up or we can learn from our mistakes and improve. Failure is part of our human experience. If we don't learn some level of resiliency or ways to start over, we will suffer. Failing and trying again in video games can be a good skill to transfer to the physical world.

Competition

Games like Valorant, League of Legends, Counter Strike: Global Offensive, and Dota 2 are all 5v5 competitive video games. Your team works together to take objectives and beat the other team. There is a lot of skill and communication involved in competitive video games.

Every competitive video game requires hand-eye coordination, fast reflexes, quick decision making, and strategy. These skills take time to develop and they can grow over time. Gamers can play Dota 2 for years and still improve every time they play.

Competitive video games get attention because they can be played professionally. Just like the NBA houses competitive teams and competitions for basketball, eSports houses competitive video game teams and competitions for video games.

Michael Jordan played countless hours and worked hard perfecting his basketball skills. Gamers play countless hours and work hard to improve their gaming skills. Many gamers wish to go pro. They desire to be on a professional gaming team like Evil Geniuses or TSM and make gaming their career.

The desire to win and compete is in a lot of us. Video games offers an alternative for high level competition if basketball isn't your thing.

Income and Career

People make gaming a career through eSports and streaming.

Streaming

Streaming is when someone plays a video game live for others to watch online. Tyler "Ninja" Blevins is a professional streamer known for playing Fortnite. He made \$17 million in 2019 and has sponsorship deals with Red Bull and Adidas. Many others stream on Twitch or YouTube Gaming to make money.

Related: [9]What is Twitch? A Beginner's Guide to Live Streaming

Esports

There is real money in [10]eSports.

There are nearly 50 eSports games and each game has a couple handfuls of different teams depending on the game. Esports had a total revenue of over \$492 million in 2016. The prize pool for the 2019 Dota 2 world championship was \$34,330,068. Many gamers play countless hours trying to get a shot at that money.

Profession Problems

Professional gaming sounds like fun, but it can be problematic.

Ex-pro gamer Jian “Uzi” Zihao retired at 23 years old due to health concerns. The wear on his body from the years of intense gameplay forced him to retire from his eSports team.

With gaming being a potential career, millions of kids and teens play trying to be the next gaming star. It’s extremely difficult to play on an eSports team or make a living streaming.

Build and Create

Humans are designed to build and create. We build through our careers and relationships. It’s rewarding to put time and energy into a project and see the result. Games like Minecraft, Ark, and Rust allow players to build and create. They have a digital canvas which they can create almost anything with.

Before the internet, kids played with building blocks. They built towers, castles, and structures using their imagination. Now, kids have Minecraft – virtual building blocks. Kids can create elaborate towers, castles, and any structure they can think of or copy from YouTube.

Gamers can also build a character. RPGs give players a chance to build their character with items and abilities to become stronger. Players spend a lot of time with their gaming characters and find a lot of pride in what they made.

Building Relationships

Relationships are hard. It’s scary meeting and developing in-person relationships. Online games allow people the freedom to talk with and

get to know people in a safe environment.

[11]Discord is a communication platform allowing gamers to talk with each other while they game. It's basically a better version of Skype. It's easier than ever to play a competitive Rainbow 6: Siege game with your friends or explore exotic worlds in The Elder's Scroll through Discord.

Playing video games with friends, and people you don't know, is similar to experiencing something fun together in the physical world. Playing video games with others is a bonding experience. You feel closer to the people you game with because you share a common goal. You are all working together to win the match, find the loot, or defeat the boss.

Online Predators

There are people who try to take advantage of others. This happens in the real world and online. It is vital parents have conversations about healthy online relationships. Anyone online, no matter their age, needs to know healthy boundaries and their rights.

If you are a parent, here are some tips in talking with your child about healthy online interactions:

- Never give personal information such as real full name, phone number, address, or email.
- Never share personal information about you or your family.
- If someone asks questions about your personal life, redirect the conversation. Say something like, "I'd rather not answer that. Do you want to go raid that base?!" If someone continues to ask questions, mute them.
- Talk about the game you are playing. There is no need for anyone to know what grade you're in or how old you are. You're old enough to play the game, that's good enough.
- Mute anyone who is disrespectful, unkind, or raging (angry speech towards another). You have the power to control what you hear. You can still play well in a competitive game without hearing the voices of your teammates.

Everyone wants connection. People play video games to feel connected to others. If you're playing video games, the best way to form relationships is to have an in-person relationship and enhance it

through online gaming.

Relaxation

A lot of video games are fast-paced and intense, but many are calm and relaxing. When the world around us is busy, chaotic, and stressful, immersing yourself in a captivating, relaxing video game is nice.

Games like Firewatch, Tetris Effect, and Untitled Goose Game are fun and relaxing. Games that let you explore an open world like Zelda, Ark, and Skyrim can be relaxing too. There is action in those games, but exploring the open world can be relaxing.

If people are looking to relieve stress, playing video games can be a good place for it.

Excitement

Video games allow you to experience excitement and danger all from the safety of your chair. You can play games that give you the opportunity to do things you never would be able to do in real-life. Fight a demon monster, fly on a giant pre-historic eagle, or complete extreme missions on a special forces team. Okay, so you could join the military and be on a special forces team. But many video games allow us to experience things we never could do in the physical world.

If our real-life is boring, plain, simple, or monotonous, playing an exciting video game sounds awesome. Throughout your day or week, you might not feel any level of excitement, but when you jump in a League of Legends match, you feel [12]adrenaline course through your body.

Many adults can get in a rut and lack excitement. Depression and fatigue can set in when there is no excitement in our lives. Many people play video games because it's an easy way to experience excitement.

Escape

Escapism is a primary motivation for many to play video games. No matter the age, we all experience stress and hardships. How do you cope with your parent's divorce? How do you respond when you feel sad, anxious, or angry? How do you deal with the death of a loved one? Video games are common ways to escape problems.

Games can be used to escape from people and/or situations.

Escape from People

If we are in a relationship we can't get away from, escaping into a video game is a way to get away. If we have challenges with our spouse, kids, friends, boss, or co-workers, stress can be high. If there are no ways to change these negative interactions, escaping into something fun, like a video game, is highly desirable.

Escape from Situations

There are many challenges in the world. When the world around us is overwhelming, we want an escape. COVID-19 is a perfect example of this. When it feels we can't control our lives during this pandemic, jumping into a safe virtual world is relieving. Maybe we are trying to get away from school or work problems. Or you don't feel you have direction in your life. Whatever the case, escaping into a video game can relieve situational problems.

Autonomy or Independence

A great part about online games is being free and making your own choices. For those who do not feel they have much independence in the physical world, video games are a great place to be.

If someone's family is controlling or abusive, video games can give that person power, control, and meaning. They have a reason to play because they have to complete the mission, rank up, help a friend, or get better items.

People can be free to be themselves in video games where they are free from the influence or direction from others. Kids who feel they are

controlled all the time might gravitate towards gaming to feel independent. Adults might gravitate towards gaming if they feel they have no control over their work or home lives.

Measurable Progress

People like to progress. It feels great to work hard on something and see positive results and video games offer fantastic ways to make progress. Every video game tracks your progress and gives you positive reinforcement when you complete something.

RPG Progress

Depending on the game, you are rewarded with an achievement or item. RPGs have a leveling system. The more you play your character, the more you will level-up. Your character levels up when they go from level 1 to level 2. When you reach level 2, your character becomes stronger and better able to complete harder things. Leveling up and making progress feels good.

Gamers are incentivized to level up their characters. Some items or gear can only be used when your character reaches a certain level. And higher-level items make you stronger and better able to play the game and complete missions.

MOBA Progress

MOBAs are competitive player verses player games. Your progress is tracked by your rank or how many games you've won. Many gamers will play the same game over and over again to increase their rank. The higher rank you are, the better you are at the game. You also get cool accessories in the game for ranking up. Plus, you get bragging rights.

Measurable progress is something everyone wants. Unlike the physical world, video games give players positive reinforcements for every little progress made. This can make it very easy for people to play a new video game rather than learn to play an instrument.

Collecting

Many video games give you the ability to acquire items. You can find items randomly throughout the game or you can trade, buy, or gamble to get them. You have to gamble using a slot-machine-like simulator in CS:GO to get items and skins. Some people don't even play CS:GO, they just gamble for skins. There are countless videos on YouTube of people opening crates or loot boxes gambling for items.

Items

Acquiring items can be motivated by a few different things. As previously discussed, if you're playing an RPG, you will be motivated to get better items as you progress in the game. Others will seek items not to use for their character, but to simply collect. Similar to searching for that next great deal or perfect item you're looking for in the physical world, it's exciting to seek out something rare.

Skins

Another item acquisition type is through skins. Skins are outfits for your character. [13]Games like Fortnite, League of Legends, and CS:GO all use skins to enhance the gamers experience. Someone playing Fortnite can have their character look like dragon, cyborg, or banana. Skins don't impact the player's skill-level, they are strictly cosmetic. Skins just look cool.

Oh Yeah, and Games Are Fun

It goes without saying that video games are fun. This is due to many ideas explored in this article. But they are also fun because of rewards. Players get consistent and planned rewards for leveling up a character or defeating a boss - they know they will get experience or an item. Players will also get variable rewards.

Variable rewards are rewards given at random. Players could defeat a boss and get an extremely rare item. They know they will get an item of some kind when the boss is defeated, but not a rare one. When they do get an extremely rare item, it feels really good. It makes that player want to defeat another boss to experience that same pleasure. But the

chances of getting another rare item is extremely low.

Variable reward is the same mechanic in slot machines and gambling. You won't hit the jackpot every time, but every once in a while, you will. Variable reward is what keeps people coming back to the casinos and is a similar experience for gaming. Which is addictive...

Speaking of Gambling: Loot Boxes

Check out what loot boxes are if you are unfamiliar. Loot boxes offer the same experience as a slot machine. Loot boxes contain skins which make the weapons in-game look different and cool. In CS:GO, there is a .44 % chance of opening a box and getting the most rare item, a knife. There are countless videos of people opening boxes with the hope of opening a knife. These rare items are valuable and can be sold for real money. One item in CS:GO is worth around \$19,600!

Opening loot boxes is a secondary activity to the game. CS:GO is a competitive first person shooter game and has nothing to do with loot boxes. But for many, opening loot boxes is the game, not the game itself.

Conclusion

This list provides insight into the motivation behind playing video games. The reasons why people play video games are not bad. The reasons are simply needs and desires that video games try to fill.

Gaming could be problematic if we ONLY go to video games to fill these needs. The majority of gamers have a healthy relationship with gaming. With over 64 % of American's playing video games, only around 3 % struggle with disordered gaming.

This list is a way to better understand the gamer in your life. I encourage you to explore the reasons why the gamer in your life plays. Seek to gain understanding, not to pass judgement.

If you see video games are causing problems in a loved one's life, talk with them about it. Be kind, empathetic, and non-judgmental. There is a reason someone has a gaming problem. Let's seek to learn their

perspective and help them get to a healthier place where they want to be.

1. <https://gamequitters.com/world-of-warcraft-addiction/>
 2. <https://gamequitters.com/how-to-quit-playing-league-of-legends/>
 3. <https://gamequitters.com/how-to-quit-playing-skyrim/>
 4. <https://gamequitters.com/delete-battlenet-account/>
 5. <https://gamequitters.com/how-to-delete-your-valorant-account/>
 6. <https://gamequitters.com/how-to-delete-your-rainbow-six-siege-account/>
 7. <https://gamequitters.com/i-have-no-personality/>
 8. <https://gamequitters.com/parents-guide-to-fortnite-addiction/>
 9. <https://gamequitters.com/what-is-twitch/>
 10. <https://gamequitters.com/what-is-esports/>
 11. <https://gamequitters.com/discord-app-review/>
 12. <https://gamequitters.com/how-gaming-affects-the-brain/>
 13. <https://gamequitters.com/delete-fortnite-account/>
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1.1.9 The 100 Best Video Games of All Time (2022-09-19 22:02)



100. Ico (2001)

Single-player video games are lonely. [1]*Ico* made loneliness feel magical by giving you a companion, even as it constantly reminded you how alien her mind must be. Just like Princess Yorda's gnomish utterances imply a story that she just can't share with you, so does the game's environment imply a vast narrative of which this story is only a part, creating a potent illusion of context through the very act of withholding backstory. While the gameplay itself is basic puzzle-solving and crude combat, it's the mood that makes it special, the constant sense that there's something vast just outside the frame. *Daniel McKleinfeld*



99. The Talos Principle (2014)

[2]*The Talos Principle* articulates the conflict between skepticism and the order of God. This juxtaposition comes in the context of a series of puzzles, implying that

human and deity have a natural interest in making sense out of chaos. Without moralizing about sin or catering to secularist values, the game implies that inquisitiveness mechanically binds humanity to a common fate. This conflicted but life-affirming perspective trumps the adolescent nihilism that oversimplifies player choice as an illusion. Even if the philosophical angle in [3]*The Talos Principle* didn't exist, the game would still be outstanding. The world design allows you to bounce between puzzles while also requiring a certain degree of completion to try higher challenges. Developer Croteam's gradual integration of several puzzle types is as accessible as it is shrewdly brain-twisting. *Jed Pressgrove*



98. Spec Ops: The Line (2012)

The ever-shifting sands of Dubai make for a good setting in *Spec Ops: The Line*: It's an unreliable environment that matches what turns out to be the game's unreliable narrator. The military, squad-based action also fits with the theme of responsibility, frequently forcing players to choose between two equally unsavory options. The game's "Damned If You Do" and "Damned If You Don't" achievements, earned from killing either a soldier or a civilian, make it clear just how blurry that titular "line" is. *Spec Ops: The Line*

never permits players to rest easily in the distance or abstraction of a long-range war or the novelty of a video game. Players can only focus on the beauty of a blood-orange sandstorm for so long before it dissipates, revealing the gruesome consequences of your violence within it, just as the bird's-eye view from a dispassionate drone eventually gives way to the revelatory moment in which your squad must wade through the charred bodies of the innocent civilians they just mistakenly dropped white phosphorus upon. The horror, the horror indeed. *Aaron Riccio*



97. Hitman 2 (2018)

In the exclusive VIP room of the Isle of Sgàil castle, the five members of the Ark Society council gather to discuss their plans to hold power over the world. During this Illuminati-esque gathering, the members of this privileged elite wear masks to conceal their identities—to discuss how they will profit from fixing the climate change disaster they created. But unbeknownst to them, one member isn't who he seems. The elusive Agent 47, having earlier tossed member Jebediah Block over a balcony, has infiltrated their ranks, and he sets out to murder them all, dishing out his unique brand of darkly comedic justice. [4]*Hitman 2*,

a fusion of escapist wish-fulfillment and satire, has the player deploy its familiar and new stealth mechanics across inventive scenarios. Whether in an exotic jungle or a Vermont suburb, 47 exploits the hyper-detailed nature of his surroundings to complete his executions, and frequently in hilarious disguise. The game gives players the tools to make their own amusing stories within various open worlds, from choking an F1 driver while disguised in a flamingo outfit, to blowing up a Columbian drug lord using an explosive rubber duck, to reprogramming an android so it can gun down an MI5 agent turned freelance assassin played by Sean Bean. *Ryan Aston*



96. Conker's Bad Fur Day (2001)

Considering the reason so many of us play video games, it's odd how often most titles follow a very specific set of unspoken rules. Not so with *Conker's Bad Fur Day*, a recklessly unfiltered romp through a parody of inately inoffensive titles like *Banjo-Kazooie*.

Conker cursed and solved puzzles by getting drunk enough to extinguish flame demons with his piss, blithely sent up pop culture as diverse as [5] *A Clockwork Orange*, [6] *Saving Private Ryan*, [7] *Alien*, and *The Matrix*, and still had time to lob rolls of toilet paper down the gullet of a

giant operatic poo monster. For sheer balls, lunatic ingenuity, and crass charm, there's never been anything like it. *Riccio*



95. Star Fox 64 (1997)

The N64 was an awkward era in Nintendo's history, as the company was getting its sea legs as it was transitioning into 3D gaming. And because of that weird third leg protruding obnoxiously from the center of the system's controller, it wasn't exactly easy to play the second title in the *Star Fox* series. But the controls were responsive, meaning it was at least easy for players to endure *Star Fox 64*'s steep learning curve. Reminiscent of games like 1985's *Space Harrier* and 1995's *Panzer Dragoon*, this compelling on-rails space shooter gave us anthropomorphic animals piloting what were ostensibly X-Wing starfighters in a galactic battle against Andross. The game featured local co-op, which made it even more enjoyable because of the multitude of additional explosions on screen. And though it came out toward the end of the 20th century, *Star Fox 64* was very clearly inspired by cubist art, making it a perturbing and exciting departure from the vibrant and richly detailed worlds players

were exploring in other Nintendo titles. Unsurprisingly, we're still doing barrel rolls to this day, so we can thank Peppy Hare for the tip all those years ago. *Jeremy Winslow*



94. Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice (2017)

Ninja Theory's [8]*Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice* is unusually sensitive for a horror game, rejecting as it does the trend of using mental illness for cheap scares. As disturbing as the contradictory voices in the titular protagonist's head might be, her fractured psychological state doesn't exist to leave players feeling frightened, but to serve up a philosophical inquiry with universal resonance. Between fights with scores of mythic beings (the one-versus-all war in the Sea of Corpses is among the most ominous action spectacles in gaming history), the player learns that Senua loathes the voices within her as much as she does anything else—and that self-hatred must be recognized and managed in order for her to attain some form of peace. This dark but life-affirming parable amplifies its emotional power through mesmerizing audiovisuals, where hallucinatory whispers argue over whether you're ever going the right way and motion-capture graphics ironically seem like reality when juxtaposed

against full-motion video. *Pressgrove*



93. Cart Life (2010)

Video games usually de-personalize business management. They shift the perspective upward, letting us look down on workers and customers as they go about the mechanical tasks we designate from on high. Designer Richard Hofmeier's *Cart Life* keeps things street level, building a life sim around its business management. Its monochrome characters barely scrape by, stretching cash as far as they're able while making time to feed cats or pick daughters up from school. Though the game can easily wear you down, it also gives weight to the small victories, like selling enough to keep going. Video games have considerable power to communicate experiences to the player, and it's used most often for saving worlds and amassing collectibles and jacking cars. *Cart Life* is a reminder of the humanity the medium is capable of. *Scaife*



92. Ikaruga (2001)

The standard shooter tasks players with dodging enemy fire and collecting power-ups while unleashing a steady torrent of bullets at one's foes. *Ikaruga* masterfully bucks that trend by introducing a polarity system, wherein your ship can only be damaged by bullets of the opposite color of your ship. The game stands apart from other titles in the subgenre of shoot 'em up known as bullet hell by, well, leaning into the hell of gunfire. This bold choice, which turns like-colored bullets into tools, stylishly revitalizes the genre, forcing players to unlearn old habits and adapt to new ones that see them boldly flying into a stream of white lasers, swapping polarity, and then releasing a barrage of fully charged black homing missiles on one's foes. Everything in these often claustrophobic corridors becomes an elegant puzzle, one where players must, judo-like, turn the enemy's barrage against it. High-score runs and harder difficulties require even more elegance and precision, as these modes now also expect players to pinpoint foes so as to kill identically colored targets in combo-creating sets of three, or to recharge ammunition by bathing in enemy bullets. Every single bullet is an opportunity in *Ikaruga*, assuming the player is bold enough to make them count. *Riccio*



91. Xenoblade Chronicles (2010)

[9]*Xenoblade Chronicles*, like fellow 2012 JRPG revivalist (and *Chrono Trigger*-indebted)

[10]*Final Fantasy XIII-2*,

cleverly uses the thematic components of shifting destinies and humankind versus higher powers as ways in which to depict the oscillating mental states of its central characters. You won't be likely to find a more fleshed-out batch of heroes than 18-year-old sword-swinger Shulk and his ragtag group of Mechon-battlers. Creator Tetsuya Takahashi clearly understands that a great RPG starts and ends with its cast, and how well players can identify with their specific, often extrinsic, ambitions and dreams. Monolith Soft's ambitious epic is beautiful, challenging, emotionally gripping, and, above all, effortlessly transporting. *Mike LeChevallier*



90. Superhot (2016)

It's a simple five-word concept that opens the door to brilliance on par with the best action films and games of recent years: Time moves when you do. It's bullet time in its loosest, freewheeling form. Every stage is the kind of bullet carnival that would make John Wick applaud. Because time grinds to a snail's pace until you make your move, the tension of every split-second decision stretches out forever. Every hit, then, is given time to simmer, and every new target opens up a world of possibilities that aren't reliant on your twitch reflexes, but on your creativity and deviousness. All the while, the game's framework takes a paranoid, cyberpunk, *eXistenZ*-style tack that somehow fits in with the minimalist aesthetic of the core game perfectly. [11]*Superhot* takes the blissfully familiar and completely twists the whole first-person shooter genre to fit its own ends. *Justin Clark*



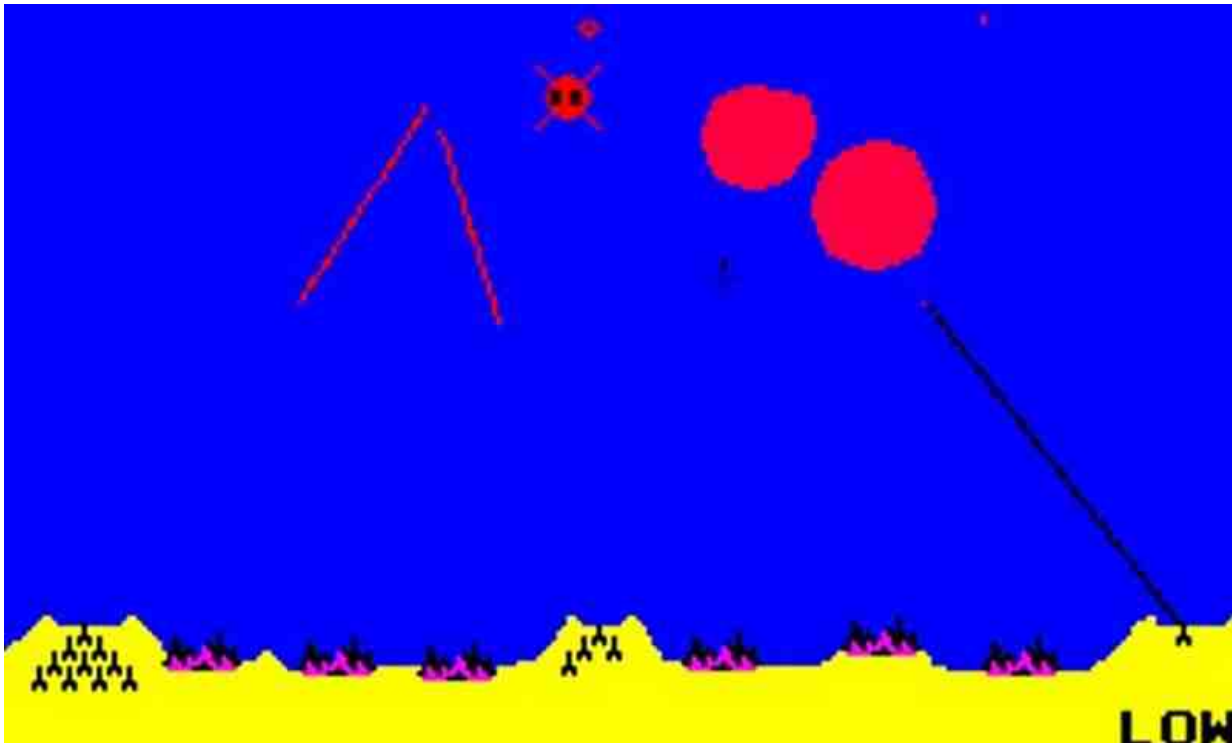
89. Myst (1993)

In the days before high-speed internet connections, most computer games left you sitting alone in a dark room, your face lit by a single glowing rectangle. The mastermind of Robyn and Rand Miller, *Myst* exhibited a unique understanding of the simultaneous feelings of solitude and connection that come from sitting alone, reading words that someone left for you. The game's slideshow pace invited the player to linger, absorbing the details of its proto-steampunk environments like the reader of a dense novel. Just when computer games were becoming a world-shaking medium, *Myst* looked back to literature with a contemplative affection that was uniquely inviting for those uninterested in gaming's usual reflex tests. *McKleinfeld*



88. Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas (2004)

Rockstar Games's *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* captures the essence of gang life and the hood with effectively grotesque accuracy. Controlling Carl "CJ" Johnson, you traipse through Los Santos committing acts of delinquency, crime, and murder, all in the name of the Grove Street Families. An internal battle starts to brew between members of the street gang just as other gangs begin to make their move, and you watch CJ go from gangbanger to murderer to businessman—just about the most brilliant display of character development from the PlayStation 2 era. The game's Los Santos was neither as large nor as detailed as its recreation in [12]*Grand Theft Auto V*, but the setting, a fictional depiction of Los Angeles, was distinct and realistic enough to feel like a livable city. It's no wonder Rockstar returned to the well. *Winslow*



87. Missile Command (1980)

Missile Command is the definitive thinking person's shooter. With limited counter-missiles at your disposal and multiple cities to protect, you must quickly observe the trajectory of every incoming enemy missile, and your shot placement must account for the radius of every ensuing explosion so as to destroy as many projectiles at once. This anticipatory approach makes the experience unquestionably distinct from other shooters of the time, such as *Space Invaders*, *Combat*, *Centipede*, and *Asteroids*, all of which featured unlimited ammo and only asked players to aim for one target with each shot. But just as important, *Missile Command* is culturally significant in how it reflects the anxiety of the Cold War era. The game envisions a scenario where civilization must be protected from an unpredictable foreign enemy—one that doesn't come from outer space. The gravity of this theme is amplified by the unique control layout of the game's arcade cabinet, which gives the illusion that you're manning a war station rather than merely playing another machine in the arcade. Few games have captured widespread geopolitical paranoia like *Missile Command*. *Pressgrove*



86. Elite Beat Agents (2006)

Ouendan, the Japanese rhythm title *Elite Beat Agents* is based on, boasted unique, tactile gameplay that felt just as much like drawing elaborate art as it was tapping to a beat. The cherry on top were the visuals, a series of vignettes about Japanese citizens having trouble in their daily lives, and the *Ouendan* showing up to cheerlead the courage they need. *Elite Beat Agents* managed to somehow translate all of that to the West but with an extra injection of full-on cartoon-madcap antics, set to some of the most well-known hits ever written. And so, we have a game where a dance troupe dressed like the Men in Black gives an adventurous pug the courage he needs to save a baby who wanders onto a construction site, set to the Jackson 5. We tap along to a lone truck driver's harrowing night killing zombies with canned nuts to Destiny's Child. A meteorologist gets her entire city to fight the bad weather off with electric fans so she and her son can have a picnic, while you tap along to Earth, Wind & Fire's "September." None of these elements combined should work, and yet, here they all are in *Elite Beat Agents*, one of the most delightful concoctions ever to grace a portable system.

Clark



85. Paper Mario: The Thousand-Year Door (2004)

For as memorable as the classic Super Mario worlds have been, they feel every inch the platforming gauntlets they're designed to be. You never really picture them as places where people live. The great triumph of the Mario RPGs is how effortlessly they build that world outward and fills in its blanks, and no game reveals Mario's world to be such a wonderful, bizarre place as well as *Paper Mario: The Thousand-Year Door*. It's the sort of game where our hero infiltrates a secret society's equally secret moon base. He enlists the local Pianta mafia to get him to a big arena in the sky, wherein he fights alongside a punk infant Yoshi as a sort of amateur wrestler called "The Great Gonzales." The timing-based battle system is relocated to a stage in front of an audience that grows as Mario levels up, letting you play to the crowd for power-ups. More than just a Mushroom Kingdom coat of paint over a well-worn template, this is one of the most inspired RPGs ever made and the reason people still clamor for Paper Mario to return to its roots so many years later. *Scaife*



84. God of War (2018)

The eighth entry in the *God of War* series is full of classic, epic combat, as you'll slay your share of elemental trolls, winged dark elves, and giant thunder dragons throughout the game's campaign. But whereas its precursors placed mindless violence front and center, this game brings a new weight to protagonist Kratos's every move. It's in the heavier Leviathan Axe that he wields this time around, as well as in the lessons his actions convey to his son. The new Nordic setting also refuels the franchise's creative roots. The game overflows with ideas and fresh locations throughout Kratos's journey across the Nine Realms, with some side quests so expansive that they don't just introduce an extra area, but an entirely different dimension with its own set of rules. There's a double meaning to everything, especially the more visceral combat, which forces players to think about how to best engage foes, but about what they're teaching their in-game son. This collection of mythic stories is made more relatable, not more mundane, through the lens of parenthood. *Riccio*



83. Phantasy Star IV: The End of the Millennium (1993)

Phantasy Star has its fans, a great many of whom jumped on when the series went MMO, but it's never been a franchise uttered in the same breath as Square Enix's best, and *Phantasy Star IV: The End of the Millennium* releasing hot on the heels of *Final Fantasy VI* didn't help. The irony is that Sega's magnum RPG opus does pretty much everything *Final Fantasy* would offer in the years that followed way ahead of the curve: combo spells, manga-inspired cutscenes, space travel, multiple vehicles to play around in, and the best, delightfully earnest storytelling the genre has to offer. This is the system's quietly ignored masterpiece. *Clark*



82. Hotline Miami (2012)

Amid the arms race of next-gen graphical evolution and the seemingly endless deluge of triple-A blockbuster shooters arrived a veritable thunderbolt of weird, *Hotline Miami*, and the landscape of modern gaming would never again be the same. A hallucinatory top-down action game that plays like *River City Ransom* as imagined by David Lynch, *Hotline Miami* is a fever dream of violence and retro gaming, pulling together the tropes of the medium's innocent infancy and turning them into something altogether darker. Jonatan Soderstrom and Dennis Wedin didn't simply make a classic game. Rather, they burrowed their way into the deepest recesses of gaming's unconscious, and the result feels like a nightmare you just had but only half-remember. *Calum Marsh*



81. Streets of Rage 2 (1992)

Streets of Rage 2 is a beat 'em up, not a rhythm game, but you can still get lost in its groove. The electronica- and funk-driven soundtrack by Yuzo Koshiro is catchy, startling, and enrapturing. The way the four characters feel as you fight—as you punch, kick, slide, grab, throw, perform backbreakers, counter fools standing directly behind you, and more—mirrors the soul of the music: Everything is tightly constructed but flows like an improvisational avalanche. This game doesn't hold back on the challenge front either. At times, the screen fills with so many moving bodies that the timing and decision-making required to dispatch the crowd of foes might seem impossible to perform. But when you do manage to come out of a brawl without losing a life, *Streets of Rage* feels like one of the hippest dances you can nail. *Press-grove*



80. Viewtiful Joe (2003)

A dazzling homage to movie magic, superheroes, and the 2D side-scroller that was warmly praised when released on the then-floundering GameCube, *Viewtiful Joe* employed a battlefield blueprint inspired by cinematic visual effects. Its VFX powers (Slow, Mach Speed, and Zoom In) put players in the director's chair (or, perhaps, that of the editor), giving them the opportunity to control and cut their own stylish fight sequences while dispatching foes and solving puzzles. And with its charming art design (a nod to both Japanese tokusatsu and American B movies) and cel-shaded graphics done oh-so-right, it remains a reminder of what enchantment might result from the marriage of film and video games. *LeChevallier*



79. Ninja Gaiden (1988)

Though tough and not infrequently cheap with its hits and enemy respawning, *Ninja Gaiden* rewarded your perseverance. It's a game of foreboding, arcane temples and ancient demons with creepy little details. Using comparatively little horsepower—especially compared to the flashier but slower *Shinobi* titles—the game lets players feel like a ninja, a fast, powerful warrior with both speed and power, able to manipulate physics and do impossible things. The most vital and important part of its spectacle, however, were its cutscenes, the first time such a thing had been implemented in a console game, and still some of the best implemented until the PlayStation era. And those cutscenes managed to replicate the language of cinema, telling a simple, fantastical story, and yet an effective one, full of twists, unexpected plot turns, tension, and stakes. *Ninja Gaiden* marked the moment where your primary motivation to complete a stage wasn't a high score, but to see what happened next, and what happened next was actually interesting enough to be worth the effort. *Clark*



78. SimCity (1991)

Will Wright's *SimCity* was a philosophical challenge to the notion that video games must be more like fantasies to be engaging to a general audience. Real-world complexities, such as tax rates and zoning, drive the mechanics of this revolutionary title where the player assumes the role of an omniscient mayor of a city. Rather than present a series of rigid, designed tests of skill to players, *SimCity* asks us to imagine the kind of world we want to see and then to build it accordingly. Sometimes mistakes will be made or disasters will strike, dooming our dreams of a highly functioning metropolis, but failed agendas and catastrophes give us insight into how to plan for contingencies next time. Games as different as the political simulation *Democracy* or the sandbox hit *Minecraft* all owe something to the open, meticulous gameplay of *SimCity*. *Press-grove*



77. Halo 3 (2007)

The alien vessel you're trapped in is less a ship than a living *thing*. The rooms are bordered with bloated, swollen pustules stretched from wall to wall, while sacs of throbbing "organs" hang from the ceiling, from which disgusting monsters emerge to attack—a stark contrast to the large endless fields that comprised most of [13]*Halo: Combat Evolved*. Beginning on Earth with a bloody firefight in the jungles of Africa, then teleporting to an ancient structure beyond the edges of the Milky Way where multiple alien races feud, leading to the rescue mission in the disgusting *living* alien ship, before concluding with a recreation of the original *Halo*, *Halo 3* remains notable for its diversity of setting and how it complements its variety of action. *Aston*



76. Three Fourths Home (2015)

Through a family's yearning for solidarity and economic security, [14]*Three Fourths Home* finds a spiritual connection between seemingly disparate generations. You make dialogue choices as twentysomething Kelly, whose disappointment about her lack of self-sufficiency could have made for a pandering tale of millennial angst. Developer Zach Sanford avoids this mistake by also emphasizing the vicissitudes of her family's life, whether it's her father being out of work due to injury, her younger autistic brother's trouble at school, or her sometimes-overbearing mother trying to hold the whole unit together. This approach gives *Three Fourths Home* a mature social consciousness, allowing the characters to illustrate common American anxieties that transcend the party politics of our time. *Pressgrove*



75. The Binding of Isaac (2011)

Two titles are more responsible than any other for turning these last few years of gaming into the era of roguelikes. If Derek Yu's *Spelunky* is the indisputable prodigy, the preppy Ivy League candidate parents love to show off to neighbors, then Edmund McMillen's [15] *The Binding of Isaac* is the problem child, the surly metalhead most likely to snub the guests and stay in the garage smoking pot and listening to Slayer. It's a game sprinkled with visual references to terminal illness, substance abuse, abortion, religious fanaticism, and matricide—one where digging into sunflower-colored turds can net you some cool treasure and passing gas is a viable mode of offense. Yet the core mechanics operating behind this repulsive and fascinating façade are no less impeccably engineered than *Spelunky*'s. *Alexander Chatziioannou*



74. Mega Man 2 (1988)

What *Street Fighter II* did for both the *Street Fighter* series and the fighting-game genre, *Mega Man 2* did for both *Mega Man* and the entire platforming genre. Not content to simply perfect all the things its predecessor had done wrong, *Mega Man 2* represents a lightspeed jump in ambition. Every enemy not immediately ported over from the first title hides a surprise. Every platforming challenge is tougher but fairer. The powers that Mega Man grabs from the bosses are wildly varied from just “gun that shoots [blank].” It’s in the Dr. Wily stages that the game achieves perfection, however, with a series of challenges that are still jaw dropping in their execution on an 8-bit system to this day, from the shocker of a dragon chase leading into a precarious mid-air boss fight, to the final stage, a slightly incongruous but effectively creepy grace note that takes Mega Man through a silent catacomb, punctuated by dripping acid. Better graphics and more gimmicks haven’t gifted the series with nearly the creative bravery as its very first sequel. *Clark*



73. Goldeneye 007 (1997)

Not only was *Goldeneye 007* one of the rare film-to-game adaptations that worked, featuring complex level designs (and bonus objectives scaling to difficulty) that required equal measures of stealth and shooting, but it also defined an entire generation of FPS gamers with its heated four-player split-screen multiplayer. The film lasted only a few brief hours, but the experience of sitting beside three dear friends, sneakily watching *their* screens to get a better read on their position, and then watching as they accidentally walked into the corridor you'd just riddled with proximity mines was the sort of halcyon summer haze that memoirists dream of. *Riccio*



72. Banjo-Kazooie (1998)

Here's the odd game that boasts a split-personality protagonist: an amiable bear representing the superego and an obnoxious bird representing the id. While Nintendo created the 3D-platformer template with *Super Mario 64*, Rare refined it with their tongue-in-cheek *Banjo-Kazooie*. The humor and game mechanics simultaneously develop all the way through to the hysterical game-show finale and subsequent boss battle that effectively take advantage of all the skills you've acquired across the game. Subbing the blank-faced plumber with a chilled bear and his sassy backpack-bound avian sidekick, the game stands out for its self-awareness: An unusually meta experience, it constantly pokes fun at its contrived storyline, limited characterization, and other gaming tropes. Few games are so accomplished in both personality and gameplay. *Aston*



71. Half-Life 2 (2004)

The original *Half-Life*, released in 1998, redefined the way players experienced first-person shooters with heavily scripted sequences and a well-written narrative. *Half-Life 2* took this to the next level, as silent protagonist Gordon Freeman is removed from cryostasis and plunged into a future dystopia—a formerly human-populated city now turned zombie nightmare—reminiscent of Nazi Germany where the last remaining humans reside, enslaved by an unstoppable alien threat. Without ever relying on cutscenes, the game makes you a first-person participant in its storyline, one that turns the tide from oppression to rebellion fighting for the future of humanity. It's a classic whose thrills best those of most action movies and demonstrate the remarkable innovation the medium is capable of. *Aston*



70. Dishonored (2012)

Dishonored combines elements of other immersive sims, like *BioShock* and *Thief*, to create a mechanically enjoyable first-person stealth game that challenges your awareness and resourcefulness. While its narrative about betrayal and revenge is rote, the game is enticing for the autonomy it offers players. This is very much a gamer's game: It hands you a target—kill High Overseer Campbell, for example—before then turning you loose, giving you the freedom of the world and Corvo's powers to deal with your target however you see fit. Though the end of every mission may resort to a binary lethal/non-lethal choice, the ways you can approach any mission are bountiful, making each run different enough to warrant multiple playthroughs. *Winslow*



69. Katamari Damacy (2004)

It's impossible to summarize *Katamari Damacy* with the language of literature or film: plot, character, iconic images, expressive subjectivity. Instead it makes art from gaming's preferred values: accumulation, variation, interaction, progress. The story is absurd, and its visuals and controls are willfully crude. Yet it's a well-honed machine that generates pure joy. Because lurking behind the serious silliness is a glimpse of theme: The game is an elegant metaphor for growing up, in which the world becomes fuller and more detailed the bigger you get, beautifully conveying the thrill of an expanding horizon. If that's not art, what is? *McKleinfeld*



68. Titanfall 2 (2016)

Given its predecessor's sole emphasis on multiplayer matches, it's almost shocking that [16]*Titanfall 2*

sets such a high bar for single-player missions. The game's focus on the creative integration of wall-running, double-jumping, sliding, shooting, and melee attacks makes even the tutorial section a blast. More importantly, this highly customizable action encourages the player to take risks that would be suicidal or impossible in everyday first-person shooters. But that's only half the fun. [17]*Titanfall 2* ingeniously alternates between this fluid soldier-based play and weighty, deliberate mech face-offs—a juxtaposition of styles cleverly hammered home by the dialogue between the go-getter pilot and Spock-like AI of the walking machine. Everything in the campaign is designed to give you a rush, from laughably over-the-top villains to the remarkably fast burrowing through tight places to platforming sections that will make you think you're seeing sideways. The greatness of the game's campaign raises a controversial question in our globalized world: Who needs an internet connection or other players when the proceedings are this electrifying alone? *Pressgrove*



67. Street Fighter II Turbo: Hyper Fighting (1992)

In combat sports, speed kills. Such is the philosophy behind *Street Fighter II*'s third iteration, which can test your reflexes and execution like no other fighting game, especially when you put in a special code on the Super Nintendo Entertainment System version and dial the turbo all the way up. This update also gives several of the champions from *Street Fighter II* new ways to cover ground and space on the screen, presenting an even greater demand on players to develop smart plans of attack and defense. Otherwise, this is the same ingenious title that popularized an entire genre, established a slew of video-game icons (the menacing M. Bison, the powerful Chun-Li, the too-fast-for-his-size E. Honda), and captured the public's imagination with its visionary depiction of the intersection between geography and violence. *Pressgrove*



66. Galaga (1981)

It's the little details that define the unique and absorbing personality of *Galaga*. Each enemy makes its own sound when you hit it with a blast from your ship, giving your frenzied attempt to vanquish all the aliens an almost musical quality. The behavior of your foes—their crisscrossing fire, their doubling back once you think they've left the screen, their synchronized circular dives toward your ship—is practically an Olympian display of agility and misdirection. And what of your own style of shooting? Do you just frantically tap the fire button, hoping to eliminate everything in sight based on luck and aggression? Or do you methodically determine the vertical channels where you will launch bullets, catching your adversaries in the middle of their deceptive shenanigans? Popularity isn't a valid or reliable measure of quality, but there's a reason you're still likely to see a *Galaga* machine in random spots across the country. This isn't just another series of explosions in space, but a timeless work of art and a rip-roaring sport that almost anyone can grasp. *Pressgrove*



65. Super Mario World: Yoshi's Island (1995)

A 2D pearl with enough creative energy and nuanced artistry to fill two games, this sequel to *Super Mario World* gave the Yoshi clan their rightful time in the limelight, and in the process developed a set of ingenious platforming mechanics that have yet to be even shoddily imitated. Yoshi's flutter jump, in combination with his egg aim-and-throw technique, made for a unique variation on the typical side-scrolling *Super Mario Bros.* escapade. Certain areas also allowed Yoshi to transform into a multitude of vehicles that could navigate previously unreachable areas. *Yoshi's Island* is a game that's absolutely brimming with pioneering ideas, representing Nintendo at its most fearlessly experimental. *LeChevallier*



64. Rock Band 3 (2010)

From singing vocals in harmony to hammering away at a four-piece drum kit, *Rock Band* makes you feel like you're part of the music. The natural evolution of the series that introduced the keyboard to accompany the drums and guitars, *Rock Band 3* upgraded the plastic guitar with a real one. While Activision's competing *Guitar Hero* franchise fell apart with unwelcome, irrational, and incompatible yearly iterations, Harmonix treated *Rock Band* as a platform, allowing players to buy whatever songs they wanted and adding valuable features with each release, like the ability to play music online, expanding the party internationally. How else can I sing Journey with my friend in Canada from my house in the land down under? Aston



63. Braid (2008)

Braid was the first art game to combine highbrow ambition with rock-solid gameplay. Like most pioneering works, it's largely about its own medium, appropriating the inexorable left-to-right movement and damsel-in-distress story of a certain famous gaming icon and using it as a metaphor for...life? Guilt? L'amour fou? *Braid* doesn't answer all the questions it raises, and that's a good thing. Better still is how elegantly the story and the game mechanics work together, with time-reversing levels exploring remorse and single-key puzzles as metaphors for loss. Like the games it parodies, *Braid* makes walking and jumping feel great, but it uses that visceral satisfaction to draw you into something profoundly disquieting. *McKleinfeld*



62. Grim Fandango (1998)

Grim Fandango opens with something much scarier than being chased by necromorphs or overrun by zergs: the simple acknowledgement that you're dead. Plenty of people have nervously speculated about the afterlife, and this game reassuringly suggests that it will at least look awesome, by mixing Aztec aesthetics with noir tropes and presenting it with Tim Schaefer's trademark wisenheimer goofiness. The widescreen tableaux of the graphic adventure worked like Beckett landscapes, adding a bracing chill to comic business. Amid the uncomfortable chuckles of *Grim Fandango's* premise, the absurd logic of adventure games is a welcome pal, and every hard-boiled cutscene is a reward worth working toward. *McKleinfeld*



61. WarioWare, Inc.: Mega Microgames! (2003)

While, obviously, Nintendo at their best makes accessible, creative masterpieces for kids and kids at heart the world over, the Nintendo we don't praise nearly often enough is the wacky esoteric lunatic Nintendo that runs with the most bonkers concepts right into the end zone. Recently, this is the Nintendo that gave us *Splatoon*. That Nintendo also gave us *WarioWare*, a game whose lifeblood is an almost Dadaist cocktail of absurdity. A collection of minigames, all of which can be completed within seconds, is a great and logical little gimmick, especially for a title made for a portable system. But having those games hosted by disco clowns in blue afros and monkeys in VR helmets trying to evade the cops, and having the games themselves range from "collect four coins in 3 seconds" to "make this sad princess sniffle up the giant line of snot hanging out her nose in 3 seconds," is the stuff of inspired lunacy. Though the sequels raise the stakes, and add more gimmicks, none are a perfectly curated a package of unfiltered crazy as the original GBA title. *Clark*



60. Batman: Arkham Asylum (2009)

What should be a night unlike any other, with Batman returning a deranged Joker to Gotham's correctional facility for deviants and delinquents, is turned on its head as the criminals that have plagued the city are suddenly released from their cells and quickly take over the joint. *Batman: Arkham Asylum* is exceptional for how it allows players to *feel* as if they're the Dark Knight, whether he's carefully sneaking up on and inspiring fear in his rogues' gallery, applying detective skills to solve crimes, or utilizing the technology at his disposal to navigate the game's expanding setting. A fight with the muscular Bane is action-oriented, taking full advantage of the game's superb beat-'em-up controls, while encounters with the twisted Scarecrow has Bruce falling victim to hallucinatory nightmares that make *Arkham Asylum* feel as if it's in the dominion of a horror game. It all builds to a climax where Batman's core ideology is put to the test. The worst night of the Dark Knight's life makes for one of the best superhero games of all time. *Aston*



59. Beyond Good & Evil (2003)

We've finally reached a point in gaming history where gamers are finally starting to ask more of *The Legend of Zelda* as a series, not realizing that what they're asking for has been staring them in the face since 2004. *Beyond Good & Evil* definitely owes much of itself as a collection of gameplay mechanics to 1998's *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*, but it takes that crucial creative next step for the whole idea of what a *Legend of Zelda* game could and should be. It manages to stay playful, colorful, and light in the midst of a heady sci-fi tale of human trafficking and alien civilizations, coupled with the same diverse world building and character design that Michel Ancel would bring to *Rayman* over the years. *Clark*



58. Super Mario Kart (1992)

Nintendo's *Super Mario Kart* defined the kart-racing genre with the innovative way in which it doubled down on the wackiest of mechanics. The game's adorable characters jump and slide, as well as fire weaponized banana peels at one another, while simultaneously navigating, for example, Thwomp obstacles in Bowser's Castle and adapting to the chocolaty mud of Choco Island or the icy traction of Vanilla Lake. The result is an amped-up arcade racer—a drift-hopping romp through a variety of obstacle courses, with each of the eight drivers handling in a completely different fashion. That variety (and the increasing speeds of each new engine class) keeps the game fresh to this day, especially in Battle Mode, which allows players to directly square off against one another, creating their own gauntlets out of endlessly ricocheting green turtle shells. *Riccio*



57. Inside (2016)

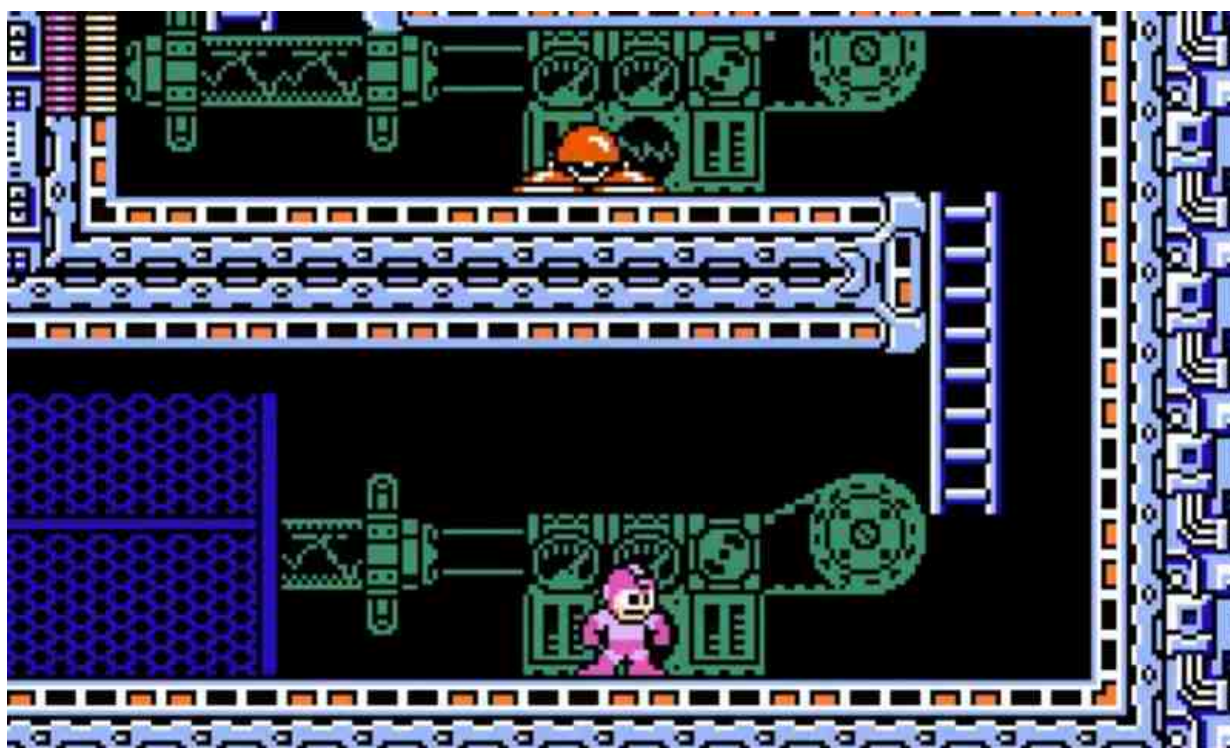
While the cult of the indie puzzle-platformer has waned in recent years, Playdead's follow-up to the critically beloved [18]*Limbo* lit a pale, shimmering fire right in the heart of the genre. Deft configurations of the familiar crates, levers, and ladders that make up the expected trappings of [19]*Inside's* puzzles produce some of the most memorable conundrums of the past few years in gaming. Rather than trying to ignore the long shadow cast by its predecessor, the game maintains an active, fruitful conversation with [20]*Limbo* but never to the point of sheer repetition. Immaculately authored and coiffured by six long years of development, [21]*Inside* has some of the most memorable moments that the genre has yet seen. The game may only have a few tricks in its repertoire, but its success at those is difficult to overstate. *Steven Wright*



56. Super Mario Galaxy 2 (2010)

[22]*Super Mario Galaxy 2*

is an ever-moving avalanche of expert game design, built from the ground up to be an experience of play, of whimsical engagement, and not just agency, a turnkey required to fulfill some clichéd predetermined narrative. In all the years that *Super Mario Bros.* titles have been synonymous with “good” video games, perhaps that’s the crucial element that gives them their lasting appeal and keeps drawing people in, whether they are first-time players or have been with Mario from the beginning. Games can simply be *fun*, and light-hearted, and wondrous. The infatuation with “adult” and “artistic” pretenses in gaming remain popular among its advocates, but in the context of what video games used to mean and why millions grew up loving them, [23]*Super Mario Galaxy 2* may be its best example yet. *Kurt Shulenberger*



55. Mega Man 3 (1990)

Although the previous *Mega Man* games had already combined platforming and shooting to entertaining effect, *Mega Man 3* innovated that formula in a way that remains unsurpassed. This sequel exemplifies how seemingly minor tweaks to the mechanics and audiovisuals of a signature style can supercharge a game's kinetic potential. With the addition of a slide maneuver for the blue protagonist—the most significant alteration to the series up to that point—this entry didn't rely on trial-and-error positioning as its predecessors did and invited audiences to escape harm or death within split seconds. And while such changes made *Mega Man 3* a more dynamic action romp, the energetic but bittersweet melodies composed by Yasuaki Fajita gave the game a more complicated emotional core, hinting at some existential reluctance at play when a robot must fight other robots, including Mega Man's own brother, Proto Man. The series was never this evocative again.

Pressgrove



54. Bayonetta (2009)

One of the most hysterically ridiculous games ever made, *Bayonetta* is the story of a super-powered 10-foot-tall dominatrix-librarian-witch with glasses and a skintight outfit made of her own hair who battles rival witches, heaven's angels, and finally God himself. An empowered female protagonist over-fetishized to the point of parody, she's a corrective to gaming's view of women primarily as eye candy or damsels in distress. *Bayonetta's* universe is one in which men are completely disempowered, impotent against a race of Amazonian women who rule the world. The clever subversion of the typically male-dominated action genre is complemented by deep, addictive, and rewarding action mechanics, many utilizing Bayonetta's own hair as a weapon. *Aston*



53. Return of the Obra Dinn (2018)

The *Obra Dinn* is silent, with the ship's crew either dead or disappeared. Gifted with a kind of supernatural pocket watch, you observe freeze frames of each person's last living moments, looking for clues to their name, occupation, and cause of death to jot down in your little book. For insurance purposes, of course. Lucas Pope's follow-up to *Papers Please* places soulless, dehumanizing record-keeping on a collision course with unimaginable horror, morphing the story of the crew's last days into a logic puzzle as an indictment of capitalism. Many games have flirted with crime scene investigation in a guided capacity, but Pope actually turns you loose to sift through myriad, missable details on your own. Tattoos, accents, crew assignments, blood trails, and more must all factor into your calculations in one of the most satisfying, complex detective games ever created. One scene finds you jammed into a narrow space that restricts your movement, forcing you to only peek through a hole in the wall at the frozen terror beyond. It's one astounding composition among many, proof that *Return of the Obra Dinn* is as meticulously wound as the pocket watch that sets it in motion. *Scaife*



52. The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker (2002)

Link's quite Odyssean Gamecube adventure from 2002 is one of discovery, of sailing across vast oceans and encountering islands where different species inhabit. Unlike other 3D games whose graphics quickly become ugly due to technological obsolescence, *The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker's* cel-shaded aesthetic suggests a timeless Hayao Miyazaki film made effortlessly playable, of childhood dreams come to life. Its richness also derives from the depth and maturity to its narrative, so redolent of Greek mythology, of children suffering for the sins of their ancestors and given the lofty task of saving the world from ancient evils long thought buried, undergoing experiences that will forever change them. *Aston*



51. Super Mario RPG: Legend of the Seven Stars (1996)

There was once a time when Square and Nintendo held hands and skipped merrily through fields of sunflowers, and gems like *Super Mario RPG: Legend of the Seven Stars* remind us of how awesome it was when these two industry titans partied together. The game turned the Mushroom Kingdom on its head by thrusting the titular plumber into a quest that was anything but a run-of-the-mill Mario venture. Bowser wasn't the Big Bad, but instead a comrade, fighting alongside his adversary in addition to Princess Toadstool and newcomers Mallow, a cloud boy, and Geno, a possessed doll. *Super Mario RPG's* razor-sharp wit and intuitive battle system made it a success and paved the way for the *Paper Mario* and *Mario & Luigi* series. *LeChevallier*



50. Jet Set Radio (2000)

By the time *Jet Set Radio* came out, the skateboarding game was already in its decadent phase, with players forced to memorize lists of buttons like bored yeshiva students reciting the Torah. *Jet Set Radio* stripped the controls down to one stick and one button, replacing combo-memorization with a zen focus on the environment. Then that environment was filled with awesomeness. The cel-shaded graphics, witty cutscenes, and hip-hop-meets-J-pop soundtrack—still the best original music in gaming history—are a fervent Japanese fan letter to American graffiti street art, imagining kids of all cultures united against corporate blandness. The game uses style the way a great pop star does: as the mortar to build a dreamed-for world. *McKleinfeld*



49. BioShock (2007)

BioShock had greater narrative and thematic ambition than any previous big-time first-person shooter. But the real magic came—as it always does in great art—in how it was told. The FPS is well-suited to immersive exploration, and every corner of *BioShock* had some detail that expanded the story. Even the enemy AI, which gave all NPCs background tasks, convinced the player that Rapture was a world going about its business before being interrupted by your murderous intrusion. And no game has ever been so smart about cutscenes, the bane of most narrative FPS titles. *BioShock* elegantly led you through its levels with subtle environmental cues, and when it took away control, it did so for a very good reason. *McKleinfeld*



48. Ms. Pac-Man (1981)

Even after about 40 years, the immediately recognizable goal of *Ms. Pac-Man*—to consume every pellet in a maze without running into a ghost—continues to attract novices, experts, and everyone in between on the skill chart. There's nothing quite like that touch of panic as you guide the spherical titular heroine through narrow passages with enemies practically breathing on her as she gobbles up the last few stray dots to clear a stage. Advancing to the next board comes down to whether you keep making the right lightning-fast decisions to elude imminent death, all the while taking advantage of the limited power pellets that briefly transform the protagonist into an annihilative force. Whether you perish within the first few levels or are able to reach a kill screen, the hurried, obsessive-compulsive nature of *Ms. Pac-Man* leaves one breathless in a way that can never be forgotten and that has rarely been surpassed, even by far more complex titles. *Pressgrove*



47. Killer7 (2005)

If the hallmark of auteur theory is that, without any knowledge of its production or even seeing its credits, you can tell who wrote and directed a film, then Suda51, né Goichi Suda, is undeniably one of the few legitimate auteurs in gaming, and *Killer7* remains his magnum opus. Something akin to a psilocybin experience, *Killer7* starts off as a linear rail shooter about a hitman with dissociative identity disorder, even then managing to be one of the most fundamentally creepy, psychologically horrific takes on such a thing. It then proceeds to mutate the entire genre to fit his needs, slowly blossoming into a profane, fever-dream manifesto on sex, politics, murder, Eastern religion, and, somehow, pro wrestling. It's very safe to say that that isn't a sentence that has been or will be written about any other video game. *Clark*



46. Animal Crossing (2001)

It feels somehow naïve for *Animal Crossing* to exist. The game's focus on customizing your own space, accumulating items, and playing at a measured, even limited pace is the sort of thing we associate with crass monetization. Games like this are usually built to chase whales, but *Animal Crossing* knows the simple pleasure of cracking dad jokes as you catch sea bass, red snapper, and pond smelt. It finds wonder in the mundane, through quirky doodads you buy at the store or find in the dump, as well as through conversations with your neighbors that sparkle with personality. Seasons change, celebrations happen, visitors sell their wares, and your animal friends disappear into the wild world, leaving only their memories behind. Plenty of games are about managing life, but *Animal Crossing* is one of the few about living it, about brushing up against a vast unknown and taking things as they come. It's almost relentlessly pleasant, built on a love for your relationships and a space to call your own. *Animal Crossing* isn't naïve, then. It's aspirational. *Scaife*



45. Left 4 Dead 2 (2009)

What sets *Left 4 Dead 2* apart from similar first-person shooters is its core ethos of co-operative gameplay: If you don't work with your three partners, you're toast. You and three other survivors of an apocalypse must fight against the hordes of the undead that now reside where America's middle class once thrived. The manic baddies (shades of [24]28 Days Later) will quickly overwhelm your team, though you'll frequently encounter creatively grotesque "special" zombies that present unique threats like trapping and dragging individual players away from the group, or blinding players unlucky enough to be vomited on. *Left 4 Dead 2* immerses you intently into its world by way of thrilling gameplay, character dialogue, and environmental storytelling, punctuated with rich detail and world building (will the plight of Chicago Ted ever be resolved?). Custom campaigns and add-ons made the game endlessly replayable, enforcing its status as a modern classic. Aston



44. Grand Theft Auto V (2013)

[25]*Grand Theft Auto V's* plot takes the greatest of joy in throwing maximum shade at its audience for enjoying what the series has always done. It's something of a brilliant bait and switch, where the stunning veneer houses the most reprehensible digital society ever created. It's all a dark, scathing satire on all of America's flaws—the American dream as interpreted through by a vast prism of gluttony, lechery, and sociopathy. As much as Rockstar could and should be aiming to get a female perspective into one of their games, and sooner rather than later, their response a couple years back on the matter made sense: [26]*Grand Theft Auto V* isn't just a story starring men, but about manhood, about what's expected of them in the real world, about their agency in the hyper-violent digital world, and what it's all supposed to mean. *Clark*



43. The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild (2017)

Another timely franchise reinvention, [27]*The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* discards the linear formula of previous 3D *Legend of Zelda* titles, offering up what may be considered gaming's first truly open world. When the game begins, the war is already over, the battle lost a century ago. The world is in ruins. Link awakens and is immediately drafted back into a conflict where little can ever be restored to how it once was. And after a brief introduction, Hyrule is entirely yours to traverse in any way that you want. Throughout, your curiosity is aroused: Unbelievably vibrant sights abound across this seemingly endless dominion, and if one such sight in the distance catches your eye, you're encouraged to run to it and discover the secrets it may or may not contain. You need not enter the many shrines littered across this land, but if you do, a plethora of often-tricky puzzles will stoke your imagination every bit as evocatively as the many legends that elaborate on Ganon's takeover of Hyrule. And that no one path toward victory will ever be the same as that of another player attests to the game's thrilling and imaginative sense of design. *Aston*



42. The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt (2015)

Whereas some games put their emphasis on discovering new and ever-more-powerful loot, [28]*The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt* is too focused to be distracted by shiny objects. Its best content is in the narrative, and there's arguably a greater variety of monster-hunting quests than weapons to collect. Simply put, there's a richness to the folklore- or fairy-tale-inspired monster hunts—a house undone by tragedy and betrayal, a vengeful wrath summoned up by injustice—that compels players to scout out every inch of the game's territory (as if the poetry of a moonlit copse or the sunset from a mountainside vistas wasn't already enough). The beauty of the game is tempered by the ugliness of the monsters (this sometimes refers to the acts of deplorable humans), just as the fantasy setting is given a solid foundation thanks to political machinations that would make *Game of Thrones* proud. [29]*Wild Hunt*, then, feels far more real and important than its individual parts. Whereas other titles may captivate or spellbind an audience for a few hours, this game's mature narrative manages the singular feat of keeping players invested for nearly 100 hours. *Riccio*



41. Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater (2004)

Leave it to Hideo Kojima to follow the critical and commercial success of the second *Metal Gear Solid* with a sequel that abandons its most recognizable qualities. *Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater*

dropped players into an unfamiliar jungle bristling with hostiles human and animal alike, where they were left to fend for themselves without the expected comforts—no radar, no high-powered weapons, and no easily navigable map. And yet, despite the newfound emphasis on realism (a respite from the meta-game artifice of its predecessor), this was still *Metal Gear* through and through: realism laced with the absurd. What else could it be? *Marsh*



40. Journey (2012)

A mute, red-cloaked idea of a character trudges through a seemingly infinite desert, scarf flapping in the gentle wind. The light from a far-off mountain beckons, but not urgently, because you might want to smell the digital flowers. You will feel a sense of pride from seeing something new, rather than from eluding enemies, or from making conventional progress. This isn't a game about the ruins left behind in the sand—the past, the what-might-have-been—but rather about the narrative ahead that still lies open for players to experience. Even when the game matches you with a second player, you can communicate only through cryptic chirps, leaving it to you to interpret intent. In this, *Journey* is the Everygame. *Riccio*



39. Gone Home (2013)

Set in 1995 Oregon, [30]*Gone Home* sees Kaitlin returning from a year-long pre-college trip through Europe to find her family's house in a state of disarray, with only a foreboding message left from her little sister that she will never see her again. What appears to be the setup for a horror game is instead misdirection for a powerful coming-of-age story. Kaitlin's house is indeed haunted, but only by the sadness and longing of its inhabitants. Exploring each room reveals more about each member of her family and builds the unique narrative, ending in a wonderful inclusionary climax that speaks to the maturation of the medium of video games. *Aston*



38. Portal (2007)

One great thing about video games is that every aspect of them, from how trees look to whether gravity works, is a decision. Valve's prior games expertly simulated physics, while *Portal* asked what would happen if, like God, you could make physics different. And it presented that slapstick joke with sophisticated narrative panache. Melding wunderkind student designers with veteran comic writer Old Man Murray, *Portal* grounded its spatial wackiness in recognizable (in)human resentments. The story of GLaDOS and Chel is one of the great, Bechdel-test-passing double acts in gaming history, made all the funnier by Chel's classic-FPS taciturnity. *McKleinfeld*



37. Outer Wilds (2019)

There are six unique planets in [31]*Outer Wilds* to explore, and your curiosity will lead you to die in dozens of ways on each of them, before a time loop returns you to the start (shakes of [32]*The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask*).

Stand in one of rustic Timber Hearth's geysers, and you'll learn that being propelled through the trees isn't what kills you, so much as your subsequent landing. Spend too much time marveling at the labyrinthine corridors and fossilized remains hidden within Ember Twin and you may learn firsthand that the sand is going to keep rising, gravitationally pulled off nearby Ash Twin like an orbital hourglass, until it either crushes or suffocates you. Falling through a black hole surprisingly enough *doesn't* kill you, but running out of thruster fuel before reaching the science satellite at the other end of that wormhole certainly will. Death is at the center of [33]*Outer Wilds*—literally so, in that its solar system's sun is going supernova in 22 minutes—but what makes the game such a unique and enriching experience is how much it has to say about life. It's not about winning so much as it is about what you accomplish and learn along the way. *Riccio*



36. Spelunky (2008)

Playing *Spelunky* often seems like a quest to find out how many different ways your underground explorer can die. This uncompromising and darkly comedic 2D platformer has some of the most dynamic consequences you can fall prey to, or take advantage of once you learn the ropes, in a video game. Arrows can bounce off walls and enemies and still hit you for damage, rats can be picked up and thrown to set off traps, a bomb intended for a large foe can destroy part of a shop and cause the storeowner to hunt you down wherever you go—the possibilities are innumerable in developer Derek Yu's randomized yet themed levels. Die once in *Spelunky* and you have to start all the way over, but the serendipitous and unusual discoveries you'll make along the way are more valuable than any treasure you might hold onto for a couple of minutes before perishing. *Pressgrove*



35. The Last of Us (2013)

Come for the zombies, stay for the giraffes. *Dead Space* fans will smile as they navigate claustrophobic sewage tunnels, *Metal Gear Solid* veterans will have a blast outmaneuvering a psychotic cannibal, *Resident Evil* junkies will enjoy trying to sneak past noise-sensitive Clickers, *Fallout* experts will find every scrap of material to scavenge, *Dead Rising* pros will put Joel's limited ammunition and makeshift shivs to good use, and *Walking Dead* fans will be instantly charmed by the evolving relationship between grizzled Joel and the tough young girl, Ellie, he's protecting. But Naughty Dog's [34]*The Last of Us* stands decaying heads and rotting shoulders above its peers because it's not just about the relentless struggle to survive, but the beauty that remains: the sun sparkling off a distant hydroelectric dam; the banks of pure, unsullied snow; even the wispy elegance of otherwise toxic spores. Oh, and giraffes, carelessly walking through vegetative cities, the long-necked light at the end of the tunnel that's worth surviving for. *Riccio*



34. Psychonauts (2005)

In a time when retro throwbacks are ubiquitous, and the platforming genre has been riding a creative high for some years now, it's almost hard to remember the environment *Psychonauts* was released into, where the glut of platformers had been reduced to scavenger-hunt simulators, bred for ease of use and waste of time rather than genuine inspiration. As immensely boisterous and entertaining as *Psychonauts* still is today, it's miraculous once you think about the logic guiding its creative peers at the time, and Tim Schafer choosing to fly in direct opposition to most of it. The game's concept alone would make for some fine storytelling in just about any medium with any tone—trade summer camp for corporate espionage and, well, you've got Christopher Nolan's [35]*Inception*—but combined with Double Fine's abstract, exaggerated visuals, a willingness to push the absurdity envelope for humor's sake, and truly unique, meticulous mechanics, *Psychonauts* remains a work of creative and comic genius that works wonders out of that concept. *Clark*



33. Super Mario Odyssey (2017)

The joy of [36]*Super Mario Odyssey* is in your self-made journey. This is a game that invites you to dwell within and interact with both the old and the new. Wander around a recreation of Peach's Castle (from *Super Mario 64*) to your heart's content, maybe enter the retro 2D levels ingeniously embedded into certain flat surfaces throughout the game's kingdoms. You can also adopt a completely new identity throughout by possessing foes, allies, and sometimes random objects: You can rocket around as a fragile Bullet Bill, spring into action as a stilt-walking sprout, or swim up a volcano as an adorable lava bubble. However you play this game on your way to saving Peach from a forced marriage, it's start-to-finish fun, and the travel-guide presentation of the in-game map suggests that [37]*Super Mario Odyssey* aims to serve as a kind of vacation. The game's collectible Power Moons reinforce this leisurely emphasis, as you're as likely to get a reward from performing agile acrobatics as from paying close attention to that dog wandering along a sandy beach. This freedom elevates [38]*Super Mario Odyssey*, making it not just a game, but a colorful, creative playground. *Riccio*



32. Disco Elysium (2019)

[39]*Disco Elysium*

suggests a playable William S. Burroughs novel, and even he would've needed a lot more drugs to connect the dots in all the labyrinthine and utterly bewildering ways that player choices here wreak utter havoc on the world and your sloppy, drunken burnout of a detective. It's not enough that solving the game's central mystery—a murder tied to a worker revolution in the city of Revachol—takes so many cruel and bizarre twists and turns along the way, but the protagonist's stats actively work both for *and* against you the whole time. Your mental and emotional health is a torrent that can carry you away at any moment whether you feel prepared for it or not, which might be the most real part of such a deeply surreal experience. Your detective's failures can weigh on him, making him emotionally unqualified to make certain decisions down the road, arrogance can lead him to take actions based on his rage, and his embarrassment can give away his secrets when his self-confidence drops. His every emotion has a voice, sharply written and impossible to deny, and they will have their say, during one conversation or another, and if the dialogue goes awry, never has a game of this sort made it so abundantly clear that you have no one to blame but yourself. *Clark*



31. Fallout 2 (1998)

As stated in that ridiculous fake country song in Trey Parker's [40]*Team America: World Police*, freedom isn't free. Expanding greatly on its predecessor's maniacal open world, *Fallout 2* will pretty much let you attempt to do whatever you want—whether that's playing all sides in a gangster war, freeing slaves, having an affair with either the daughter or son of an overprotective father, or just being a horrible violent psychopath—but don't expect the nonplayable characters in this game to just stand by. They'll always remember your sinful or moral deeds, and thus, so will you. There isn't a popular open-world game today, including the neutered Bethesda-produced *Fallout* sequels, that matches *Fallout 2*'s sarcastic commitment to freedom of choice. This classic is wilder than the Wild West, depicts a society that makes the real world look relatively sane, and reminds us that escapism comes with consequences. *Pressgrove*



30. Doom (1993)

An ominous metal riff immediately trumpets a distinctive brand of intensity in the first level of id Software's *Doom*.

From there, the game more than lives up to the implications of its title, as the player wades through cold corridors, battles demon-corrupted human bodies, and sprints across deadly ooze. With loads of secret rooms containing precious items, *Doom* also welcomes you to comb an environment that seems alive, especially when you, after being lulled into complacency by the allure of an empty area, become the victim of abrupt and devilish traps, like an entire wall that slides down to unleash a menagerie of aggressive demons behind you. Because you can only aim straight ahead with a gun or chainsaw, the game forces you to take advantage of the protagonist's running and strafing abilities, but the speed of your movement can be as discombobulating as it is enlivening. All of these aspects, more so than the game's graphic violence, cement *Doom* as a horror masterpiece that transcends the first-person shooter label.

Pressgrove



29. Final Fantasy Tactics (1997)

Not for nothing is one of the 20 main classes in *Final Fantasy Tactics* labeled a Calculator. This is a game for math geniuses, with no end to the mix-and-match job customization offered. Or it's a game for future military commanders, with over 60 chess-like scenarios to survive, often at great odds. Or, with real-world inspirations like the War of the Roses at heart, perhaps it's a tale for historians. There's magic, too, and yards of in-game lore to read, so it's for English majors as well. Other games presented lessons, but *Final Fantasy Tactics* was the complete package, a school unto itself. Many strategy RPGs preceded and followed it, some even hewing closely to the same fundamental systems, but none have managed to capture this blend of fact and fantasy. *Riccio*



28. Castlevania: Symphony of the Night (1997)

Dozens of games have referred back to the things *Symphony of the Night* did back in 1997 to veer the traditionally linear *Castlevania* series off into completely unknown open-world territory, and few have done it as spectacularly. The game's main castle and its spectacular upside-down counterpart are staggering achievements in art design, and the score contains two or three of the best classical compositions of the last two decades in gaming. But more than this, the experience of exploring every haunted nook and cranny of this place, so drowning in secrets, unique weapons, and non-repeating enemies, remains astounding to this day, whether the player is on his or her first or 40th playthrough. *Clark*



27. Max Payne (2001)

On a winter's night some months after the death of his wife and child, renegade D.E.A. agent and ex-cop Max Payne takes to the streets of New York on a bloody *Punisher*-esque quest to avenge his family, cleaning up the corrupt city and uncovering the conspiracy that cost him everything. Combining graphic-novel noir storytelling with addictive *Matrix*-inspired "bullet time" gunplay, *Max Payne* still stuns for its rush of varied visual poetry. At the push of a button, Max moves and aims in slow motion, giving him the edge against his trigger-happy enemies, and these endlessly replayable sequences evoke the fantasy-fulfillment of playing Neo in *The Matrix*'s infamous lobby scene, or as one of John Woo's renegade heroes. *Aston*



26. StarCraft (1998)

It has long been said that any encounter with extraterrestrial life would carry with it drastic changes to our world, such as forcing us to adapt to new technologies overnight. Though the aliens in *StarCraft* are fictional, their arrival upends pretty much everything that's expected from real-time strategy games. The old, traditional Terran forces serve to showcase the asymmetric balance of the new alien races, with old fog-of-war conventions and the rock-paper-scissors combat of *Command & Conquer* and stolid swarm tactics giving way to forced innovation. The Zerg slowly web their "creep" across the map, blocking and burrowing their menacing, swift-tendriled troops, while the Protoss rely on regenerating energy shields to make the most of a more limited number of troops. The campaign further emphasizes the compelling clashes between species, a dynamic that allowed *StarCraft*'s multiplayer to thrive long after the game's release. *Riccio*



25. Dark Souls (2011)

The labyrinthine world of *Dark Souls* is a source of almost constant suspense: With no map at your disposable or straightforward path for you to follow, you must learn to move deliberately through doorways, dim passages, wooded areas, and winding ridges, as a wide variety of deadly monsters wait to rid the environment of your meddling presence. Because you must fight and then, after getting a much-needed break at a bonfire (a symbol of false salvation), refight these unholy creatures, only to stumble upon one ominously titled location after another, the game channels a purgatorial vibe unlike any other. *Dark Souls* invites you to question the meaning of its repetitious combat as you observe more signs of ruin, madness, and demonic life run amok. If played online, with other players either guiding or hindering you, you'll likely feel as if you're part of a demented community of outcasts and riffraff. But play it alone and that's when the deepest emotions—loneliness, morbid curiosity, hopelessness, relief—are liable to take full possession of you, and in the blink of an eye. *Pressgrove*



24. The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past (1991)

In 1991, a console game of such depth and sophistication as boasted by *The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past* was simply beyond conception. In fact, it was almost beyond possibility: Nintendo had to expand the capacity of their console's cartridges to make room for the breadth of what they'd hoped to do here. The results were well worth the expense and effort. You didn't just play this game, but plunged headlong into its adventure, entering a story and a world whose fate you felt lay in your hands. Today, however, *A Link to the Past* ought to be regarded as more than a milestone for a franchise still evolving. It is, in its own right, a legend. *Marsh*



23. Kentucky Route Zero (2020)

[41]*Kentucky Route Zero*

is a game often content to remain as mysterious as its namesake, an underground highway seemingly unbound by physical laws. Any fights, between unions and predatory companies, have already happened or doubtless will happen again. Instead, it explores the aftermath of cultural devastation, of how people survive in the ruins of the American experiment and how they build atop (or beneath) that wreckage, with the strange reality meant to represent what capitalism has done to the world. The magic is there, only contained and warped by the society that has grown around it. The characters' paths narrow as the game continues, as the fist of an unfeeling system closes and people are overwhelmed by weaknesses; you drift from the role of driver to the person being driven to a simple observer of what's to come. The people you encounter are refugees of greed and exploitation and obsolescence, and there's a sliver of hope as they defiantly continue, finding pleasure in creation and companionship. They write, they compose, they perform, and they record, inspired by past struggles and a world content to forget its own history beyond facile preservation attempts in arbitrary little museums. *Scaife*



22. Super Mario World (1990)

Super Mario World feels like Nintendo's own technology finally catching up with every lofty, unattainable gameplay idea they couldn't implement between 1985 and 1990. This is from an era where the first game a developer released on a new system had something to prove, and the chip on Nintendo's shoulder shows here. The game still feels massive, teeming with secret stages, alternate exits, Rube Goldbergian stage design, and verticality the likes of which could never have been done prior, and hasn't really been done as expertly since. Add the fact that this is a *Super Mario Bros.* game that actually gives Super Mario a cape, and features Yoshi's first appearance in the series, makes it one for the ages. *Clark*



21. Ōkami (2006)

The sun goddess Amaterasu, taking the form of an angelic white wolf, sets out to vanquish the eight-headed demon Orochi from Nippon. So begins a tale worthy enough to follow any of the most revered Japanese folk legends in a century-spanning anthology. With aesthetics that pay tribute to the ancient art of calligraphy and the soulful connection between painter and brush, *Ōkami* bleeds beauty from every pore. Combat, too, is akin to the elegant strokes of bristles on parchment, smoothly interweaving Amaterasu's lightning-quick attacks with swipes of the Celestial Brush, a tool that allows for on-screen drawings to come to life, aiding in both battle and puzzle-solving. A charming sequel, [42]*Ōkamiden*, was later released for the Nintendo DS, but its lack of lasting impact proved the peerless original wasn't in need of a second act. *LeChevallier*



20. Mass Effect 2 (2010)

The *Mass Effect* universe was too big to stay confined to one platform, and with *Mass Effect 2*, Bioware finally let PlayStation 3 owners explore the galaxy on their system of choice. Gamers will probably be divided forever about whether this sequel streamlined or dumbed down the combat, but the appeal of the *Mass Effect* series isn't the fighting, it's the world. Lots of design docs have concept art that seems straight out of *OMNI* magazine, but only *Mass Effect 2* managed to implement that in-game, creating thousands of beautiful planets with obsessively detailed backstories for everything on them. Even more than the ambitious *Elder Scrolls* games, *Mass Effect 2* realizes the potential of video games for executing the kind of rich world-building that fantasy and sci-fi fans love, and very much unlike *Elder Scrolls*, they tell the story with acting, writing, and direction that you don't have to apologize for. *McKleinfeld*



19. Planescape: Torment (1999)

The leads of most video games tend to come in two varieties: pre-defined and blank slate. With its immortal protagonist The Nameless One, *Planescape: Torment* goes for both. He awakens in a morgue with no memory, and he soon learns this is par for the course; his many past selves have left scars on the incredible, unorthodox world and on the imaginative characters that have crossed his path. The game is about learning who he's been, as well as defining who he'll be. It asks hard questions about the nature of the self, and about whether it's truly possible to become a better person after so many transgressions. Though nearly 20 years old, *Planescape: Torment* is still one of the benchmarks by which we measure the quality of video-game writing, with a level of choice and complexity that's rarely equaled in any other RPG. *Scaife*



18. Final Fantasy VII (1997)

The death of Aeris Gainsborough heralded a new truth about the medium: Video games can make you cry. The sweep and thrust of *Final Fantasy VII* engrossed as few adventures do, of course, but to be moved by the emotional dimension of this story—to be invested in the lives and deaths of Cloud Strife and his crew of AVALANCHE eco-terrorists, to feel compelled to save this world as if it were your own—suggested the beginnings of a new kind of video-game experience. Love and pain and beauty are coursing through this thing. Action and adventure are at its core. But emotion is its lifeblood. *Marsh*



17. Super Mario 64 (1996)

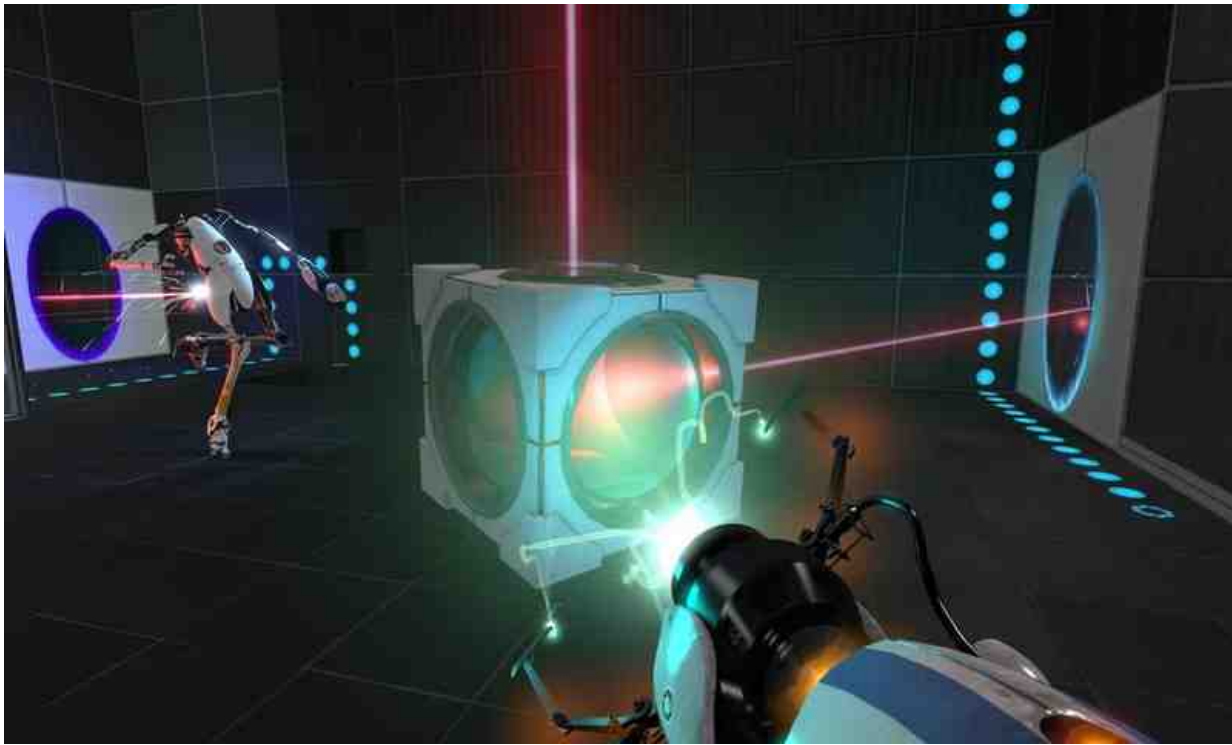
We didn't have a template for 3D games until Nintendo conceived of one for us. *Super Mario 64*

was an architectural marvel designed and built without a blueprint: the rolling open-world hills and sprawling primary-color vistas that seem as familiar to gamers today as the world outside were dreamed up out of nothing more than programmed paint and canvas. Shigeru Miyamoto was given the unenviable task of contemporizing his studio's longest-running and most prominent franchise while remaining true to its 2D legacy. And it's a testament to the designer's accomplishment here that, more than 20 years later, the result feels no less iconic than the original *Super Mario Bros.* Marsh



16. EarthBound (1994)

There has never been a game as irreverently comic and deceptively touching as *EarthBound*. It takes place in a darkly skewed version of Earth, with 13-year-old Ness's "rockin'" telekinetic powers and trusty baseball bat going toe to toe with local gangs and bullies, Happy Happy cultists, and drugged-out hippies. Despite liberally borrowing from RPG conventions (including an emphasis on grind-heavy gameplay), the game oozes originality in just about every other aspect, offering more than just escapism, but, in its battle against loneliness and negative emotions, a reason to ultimately set the controller down. *Riccio*



15. Portal 2 (2011)

In its co-option of a perspective (and its attendant controls) typically associated with homicidal adventures for a fundamentally cerebral, bloodless affair, [43]*Portal 2* turned out to be a beautifully rendered and addictively engaging piece of form/content subversiveness. As a single-player quest, the game is so consistently inventive that it can be downright exhausting, though alleviating the strain of its toughest segments is the laugh-out-loud humor, which comes in the form of tutorial graphics and PSA displays that playfully mock dystopian sci-fi conceits, as well as its cast of characters. Moreover, as superb as the game's solo mode is, even more impediments await via a unique cooperative campaign whose two-player traps are just as devilishly complex, and also further rework tried-and-true FPS aesthetic and interface formulas into something thrillingly unique. As innovative, challenging, amusing, and downright entertaining as they come, [44]*Portal 2* refutes the dim-witted contemporary adage by proving that the most fun comes from turning one's brain on. *Nick Schager*



14. Super Smash Bros. Melee (2001)

The best games of all time invoke an almost instant sense of nostalgia. But *Super Smash Bros. Melee's* charms aren't simply generated from the goodwill of such classic heroes as Link and Mario. They also result from its chaotic twist on combat, as much a matter of playing evasion ballet as of mastering the various power-ups and environmental hazards. That said, taking such a deep bench of characters out of their elements and into a brawler wasn't without a special sort of charm, as watching *F-Zero's* neglected Captain Falcon take revenge on an overstuffed Kirby or having Jigglypuff knock-out Luigi will simply never get old. *Riccio*



13. Super Metroid (1994)

Perfection in game design is like pornography: You know it when you see it. And in *Super Metroid*, it's plain as day. It isn't exaggeration to say that every element of the game has been conceived and calibrated to something like a platonic ideal: its level design feels complex but comprehensible; its difficulty is precisely balanced; its controls are as smooth as buttercream; and, perhaps most crucially, its sense of atmosphere is richly palpable. The greatness of *Super Metroid* is apparent from the moment Samus Aran floats up from within her Gunship to stand poised and ready in the rain. It's achingly beautiful. This is game craft at the height of elegance. *Marsh*



12. Silent Hill 2 (2001)

Silent Hill 2 is a game about grief. The story is simple: A widower is drawn toward the eponymous town after he receives a letter from his dead wife, who asks that he meet her in their “special place,” a hotel off the shore. In Silent Hill he finds terrible things: monsters, demons, all glimpsed hazily through a shroud of impenetrable fog. But worst of all he finds the truth. This isn’t a game about battling creatures or solving puzzles; those elements hang in the background like the ornamentation of a bad dream. In *Silent Hill 2*, you find yourself asleep, and the game is about needing to wake up. *Marsh*



11. The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time (1998)

During the lengthy development of *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*, Shigeru Miyamoto envisioned a worst-case scenario in which Link would be restricted to Ganon's castle throughout the game's entirety, jumping through portals to enter mission-based worlds. Let us be eternally grateful, then, that Miyamoto and his colleagues got a handle on their newly broken-in hardware before submitting their final product. There aren't enough superlatives, in any language, to describe how important *Ocarina of Time* is, not only to the medium of video games, but to the act of telling and being enveloped by stories. You start the game as a child and finish it as an adult. Along the way, you will have traveled countless miles, met all sorts of creatures, and been tested both in battle and by a slew of imaginative puzzles. The Great Deku Tree. Dodongo's Cavern. Jabu Jabu's Belly. The Water Temple. Oh God, the Water Temple. Your initial foray into any of these environments isn't easily forgotten, and the dungeons comprise only a fraction of the fantastical pleasures found in *Ocarina of Time*, a game that's not just a game, but the birth of a memory that you'll hold dear forever.

LeChevallier



10. Red Dead Redemption (2010)

[45]*Red Dead Redemption* is the game *Grand Theft Auto* always wanted to be. This pseudo-sequel to 2004's *Red Dead Revolver*—a functional if underwhelming third-person western saga—thrusts you into a roam-all-you-want Old West sandbox environment, allowing you the freedom to concentrate on the storyline's primary missions or simply gallop about the vast plains, dusty deserts, and Mexican mountains, collecting rare herbs, hunting wild animals, and rescuing whatever damsel in distress you might happen upon along the way. Far less limiting than *GTA*'s urban metropolises, which always felt constructed out of paper houses, [46]*Red Dead Redemption*'s settings are fully, thrillingly alive, their functioning ecosystems, sudden dramatic occurrences, and operative economy all helping to create a sense of participating in a universe that operates independent of (rather than revolves around) you. To spend time in this adventure's locales is to feel a part of a wider world. And, consequently, to catch a glimpse at gaming's immersive potential. *Schager*



9. NieR: Automata (2017)

If [47]*NieR Automata*

were just a straightforward open-world action title, one that could be completed in some 10 hours, stretching from the first line of dialogue until Ending A, it would still stand tall for being a fundamentally odd game about machines pondering their humanity, ending on a quaintly sentimental but earned grace note. Ending A, though, is the tip of the iceberg, partially obscuring what eventually reveals itself to be one of the most unique ludological and existentialist exercises in any medium. On one hand, it's a love letter and celebration of everything games are, as its mechanics flit joyously between genres; it's a hack-and-slash power trip one moment, a shooter the next, sometimes even a platformer. On the other, it's pathologically obsessed with tearing down everything about what those genres have done up to this point in gaming. [48]*NieR Automata*

performs a philosophical autopsy on the post-apocalyptic corpse of humankind through the lens of machines finding themselves bound to make sense of their burgeoning sentience from the scraps we leave behind. It's a game that revels in the destruction of one's enemies, and also forces players to recognize their own role in creating them, and the imperative of understanding them to truly move forward, a pensiveness framed by one of the most glorious, eclectic scores ever composed. *Clark*



8. Resident Evil 4 (2005)

In [49]*Resident Evil 4*, your mission to save the president's daughter from kidnappers quickly goes south, stranding you in a nameless rural village in Spain in the midst of crazed villagers infected with something very, very bad. The game offers no guidance as to how to react or escape, leaving you in a state of anxiety as U.S. government special agent Leon Kennedy attempts to flee only to be quickly cornered and overcome. The series's transition here from the stationary camera of the previous games to a fully 3D environment was a major step forward for third-person action games, but the sense of uncertainty that wracks the player throughout the lengthy narrative, of being made the center of a horrific, frenzied nightmare, is what made this game one of the most profoundly discomfiting experiences video games have ever seen. *Aston*



7. Metroid Prime (2002)

On paper, *Metroid Prime* should've been the game that made us all believe that the *Metroid* series should've stayed dead after the eight-year gap between *Super Metroid* and this release. In reality, Retro Studios defied every expectation that came with dragging a side-scroller kicking and screaming into 3D. Everything that made *Super Metroid* brilliant—its sense of isolation, Samus's varied arsenal, the sheer size of the game's world—remains intact. What Retro added was grand, evil beauty to Samus's surroundings, a subtly creepy story of ill-fated alien civilizations told entirely without breaking the gameplay, and a laundry list of FPS innovations that felt next-gen, and in more than just the graphics, even when the game was prettied up for the Wii. *Clark*



6. Chrono Trigger (1995)

Chrono Trigger is the easiest, conversation-ending answer to the question: “Why do you like RPGs?” It’s in the wonderfully written, infinitely endearing characters that are the best examples of each of their archetypes. The great, smart-alecky humor. The twists and turns in the plot, few, if any, of which are telegraphed from miles away. The consequences of your actions across the multiple timelines. The combat. The lack of random encounters. The score. That Mode 7 clock at the start that still feels like the beginning of something epic more than 20 years later. This is every JRPG element working in total harmony. *Clark*



5. Tetris (1984)

The mastermind of Alexey Pajitnov, *Tetris* is a game of pure abstraction, its mastery of the simplest possible visual units as ideal and impersonal as the Helvetica font. It's no coincidence that it came to America as an ambassador from a foreign country; like the math equations on the *Voyager* shuttle, it speaks a language even space aliens could comprehend. The fundamental gameplay imperative of fitting blocks together is almost offensively infantile, but players who master the game can feel neurons growing as they learn to stop just seeing the shapes, and start seeing the negative space around them. The system recalibrates your perceptions as you explore it, and that's what a great game is about. *McKleinfeld*



4. Shadow of the Colossus (2005)

Since 2005, games that examine players' bloodlust haven't exactly become commonplace, though many have effectively wrestled with our feelings of doubt and guilt. One of [50]*Shadow of the Colossus's* triumphs is its refusal to make murder feel good. None of the colossi, no matter how alien or invertebrate, are necessarily hostile. They all suggest frightened animals protecting their territory, and whatever catharsis you feel in slaying one comes from the selfish, uniquely human ideal of being something very small and frail standing toe to toe with something unfathomably enormous and seemingly all-powerful. The game then treats your victory with all the pomp and circumstance of having slain the last kitten on Earth. Every triumph in [51]*Shadow of the Colossus* is a tragedy for which Wander pays a deep physical and spiritual price. *Clark*



3. Super Mario Bros. 3 (1988)

Some games have one great world. *Super Mario Bros. 3* has eight, and its numerous inventive obstacles—from the sun that drops from the sky to attack you in Desert Land to the convoluted passages of Pipe Land—make the game delightfully overwhelming. At Mario's disposal is an array of fantastic power-ups, which grant full flight—sometimes literally—to the player's imagination, providing you with new ways of navigating stages and finding tucked-away areas outside the typical boundaries of platforming levels. The game also remains revolutionary because of its world map, whose various elements often communicate a powerful sense of place and mood, as with the unusually encouraging dancing trees of Desert Land and the dread-inducing blacked-out paths of Dark Land. And the secrets throughout this epic title are among the most unusual you'll encounter in a video game—none stranger than your being able to enter the background of a level by squatting on a white block. Such unforgettable discoveries show that *Super Mario Bros. 3* isn't just another well-crafted franchise sequel, but rather the epitome of unrelenting creativity in game design. *Pressgrove*



2. Final Fantasy VI (1994)

There's a classic *South Park* episode that mocks the fact that if there's a joke you like, chances are *The Simpsons* already did it. The same can be said for *Final Fantasy VI*, which basically broke and reset every rule for the modern RPG. It would have been impressive enough to feature 14 playable characters, each with their own unique abilities (like Sabin's *Street Fighter*-like combinations). Or to introduce the steampunk combination of magic and technology to the genre. Or to offer branching narrative paths. Or to stuff the game with enough side quests to fill an entire sequel. But *Final Fantasy VI* did it all, first and flawlessly. That such a perfectly scored game in which the world is destroyed halfway through also finds time for humor, thanks to a certain cephalopod, is just icing on an already impeccably gluttonous cake. *Riccio*



1. The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask (2000)

[52]*The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask*

is antithetical to everything we're conditioned to feel about popular game design. We're meant to appreciate the bombast and big open spaces that let us assert our dominance over and over again. But [53]*Majora's Mask* is about looking inward, about confronting our own powerlessness. It's the smallest 3D *Legend of Zelda* game that Nintendo has ever produced, focused as much on its main quest as on observing daily lives and routines. You come to know people and places with an intimacy that few video games can claim, and you especially come to know your continued failure to save them. The moon obliterates the town of Termina again and again, and the people gaze upward to accept their fate as Link looks on, caught in the cycle of his own defeat. You can intervene and provide brief moments of respite by beating side quests, but the people never step out of line on their march to inevitable death. The small victories are just that: small in the face of what's to come. You must eventually play the ocarina to restart the time loop, and you must eventually watch those victories evaporate as you move incrementally forward, powerless to save them all. Though you finally come to the solution and break the time loop to save the world and its people, you accomplish this only after so many failures, only after seeing death through the eyes of so many. Masks function in the game as a way to hide, as well as a way to empathize. The ones you'll use most often, the ones empowered by ghosts, remind you

that you've only arrived in the middle of a larger life cycle that you have no power over. [54]*Majora's Mask* still lets you play the hero and even manipulate the flow of time, but it never lets you bend to your will a world that exists only for you, the player. Though the moon may rise with your help this once, it's perfectly capable of going on alone.
[55]

[56]

[57]

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1.1.10 Deranged North Dakota Man Kills Teenager Over Political Views (2022-09-30 13:56)

Joe Biden said MAGA Republicans were a threat to our nation. These freedom-loving patriots, who only want a government that works for them, better trade deals, more jobs, and fewer taxes, are a clear and present danger that must be crushed. And yet, we're not the ones killing people

over political disputes. That would be the Democrats. The Left used the January 6 riot to smear Trump supporters as violent insurrectionists. Still, only one person was killed inside the Capitol Building, Ashli Babbitt, whose officer-involved death continues to be plagued with lingering questions. Those inquiries will remain, but one act of political violence will probably go under the radar due to its location, but that doesn't make it less relevant given the war cry bellowed by Mr. Biden.

In McHenry, North Dakota, a 41-year-old man allegedly ran down an 18-year-old teenager over a political dispute, killing him. He was reportedly drunk at the time of the attack. To make things more bizarre, the alleged perpetrator called the police on himself and admitted to killing the North Dakota teenager. He is held on \$50,000 bail since he claimed he wasn't a flight risk as if that means anything in a potential homicide investigation. The victim reportedly called his mother before his death, asking for help as he noticed the man chasing him down (via [1]Grand Forks Herald):

Prosecutors allege moments before he was killed, 18-year-old Cayler Ellingson called his mom to come rescue him because 41-year-old Shannon Brandt was chasing him in the city of McHenry, where the street dance had just wrapped up.

By the time she could get there, her son was dead.

Brandt was officially charged Monday with vehicular homicide and leaving the scene of a deadly accident.

[...]

Court papers show Brandt called 911 around 2:30 a.m. Sunday and told the 911 dispatcher that he just hit Ellingson, claiming the teen was part of a Republican extremist group and was calling people to come get Brandt after a political argument.

Ellingson's mom told police her son called her just before the crash, asking if she knew Brandt, which she does. She does not believe her son knew him.

[...]

"We are still trying to determine what, exactly, transpired at the time of crash and prior to that as well," explained Niewind.

Police say Brandt was drunk when he hit and killed Ellingson with his SUV.

"We do not know of any witnesses. We are still making attempts to interview potential witnesses from the street dance, people that were present prior to the crash happening," Niewind said.

A loser twice the victim's age couldn't handle a political argument, so he allegedly killed him. That sounds like a rational individual. Whether they live in cities or rural America, the Left is just

unspooled.

Rate this:

This entry was posted in [2]Uncategorized on [3]September 20, 2022.

[4]Joe Biden Is a Moron and Scott Pelley Is No Better

[5] Leave a reply

Stop the presses, the President of the United States gave an interview! That, in and of itself, shouldn't be newsworthy, but when you're dealing with an insulated moron who hasn't given an interview in the gestation period of a human being it is a bit of news. And when that interview is with the vaunted 60 Minutes, it is important. Or at least it used to be.

Much like Meet the Press dined out for years on the job Tim Russert did – getting credit for being a place for “tough” interviews based on his reputation while subsequent hosts slobbered all over Democrats and got into interrupting matches with Republicans until Chuck Todd simply killed the brand – 60 Minutes as a journalistic outfit lives only in the memories of people who no longer watch it. It’s pathetic.

When Lesley Stahl interview Donald Trump it was a non-stop interruption, when Scott Pelley sat down with Joe Biden Pelley had to be careful not to get his face crushed by the President from here he’d had his lips planted.

There was no challenging, which isn’t surprising, but there wasn’t even any pointing out the obvious lies or “factual inaccuracies” from the senile occupant of the Oval Office. Pelley’s one question about Hunter Biden, for example, might as well been cleared by the White House beforehand, if not written by them.

Pelley [6]asked,
“Mr. President, if you run again, Republicans are most likely to go after your son Hunter once again. And I wonder what you would like to say about your son and whether any of his troubles have caused conflicts for you or for the United States.” If you expected a question mark at the end of that you don’t understand journalism as it currently exists. There was actually no question about Hunter, there was an opportunity for Joe to say whatever he wanted, unchallenged, before moving on. That allowed Pelley to check the box without asking anything serious like why did Joe lie about meeting more than a dozen times with Hunter’s business partners and those paying him a fortune in industries he had no knowledge of? And why Hunter wasn’t “hired” by these companies until Joe was in a position to have influence over US policy toward the countries and industries these companies operate in?

There are so many unanswered and important questions that should have been asked, Pelley opted to set the ball on a tee and walk away, no follow-ups, nothing.

Instead of journalism you get throne-sniffing. When asked about inflation, Joe rambled about how it's not that bad. "Well, first of all, let's put this in perspective. Inflation rate month to month was just-just an inch, hardly at all," Biden said in a way someone who is not impacted by inflation at all could say.

Inflation is not a per-month phenomena, it is cumulative. An 8 percent increase one month, year-over-year, followed by another month of 8 percent does not mean prices have increased 16 percent over 2 months. It's measured against the previous year and means prices are still up 8 percent over the previous year, likely meaning there wasn't inflation the previous year but now there is. So when Joe says inflation month over month was only up "just an inch," he's referring to an 8.2 percent increase one month turning into an 8.3 percent increase the next. That .1 is what inflation was from one month over the previous one, it didn't reset and disappear. Joe knows this, or at least Scott Pelley should. Yet there was no real pushback on that either.

After Biden claimed credit for creating jobs that were allowed to return after Democrat Governors lifted their forced closure orders and quickly moved on from there. Pelley moved on too, because anything else would've been too much like journalism.

Journalism is not what 60 Minutes does anymore, at least when a Democrat is the subject. A Democrat President can say he plans to

“continue to grow the economy” when we’ve had 2 quarters of shrinking GDP and receive zero challenge.

It’s beyond embarrassing. Not only could a child ask better, more honest questions of the President of the United States than “award winning journalist” Scott Pelley did, that child could also give better answers. The segment will probably win an Emmy and a Pulitzer.

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1.1.11 About Time: Even the White House Press Corps Realize Biden Isn’t Making Sense (2022-09-30 14:09)

President Joe Biden, [1]as Katie highlighted earlier, had perhaps one of his worst moments today in that he repeatedly called for Rep. Jackie Walkorski (R-IN) at an event, despite how the congresswoman [2]was killed early last month in a car accident. Biden himself even acknowledged her death at the time and signed a declaration. Flags were also flown at half staff. Making it even more certain that Biden was indeed talking about Walorski is that [3]he was speaking at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, an event and issue that had been near and dear to her heart.

While White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre often able isn’t able to offer an articulate response, her most inadequate yet in the over four months since she’s had the job may have come [4]during Wednesday’s press briefing.

It’s not like she didn’t have the opportunity to find a way to properly answer as to what the president was doing calling for a dead congresswoman.

As the video above shows, numerous reporters challenged Jean-Pierre. We're often used to seeing Fox News' Peter Doocy as the leading voice when it comes to putting the Biden administration on notice. This time, however, several other reporters took notice of what has become a problem with the president that can simply no longer be ignored.

Jean-Pierre did not discuss the event where Biden called for Walorski until prompted by reporters. Rather, she spent the few moments in the beginning discussing preparedness for Hurricane Ian and the war between Russia and Ukraine.

The Biden administration had faced heavy criticism over [5]the president initially not calling Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL), despite calling Florida mayors. He [6]ultimately did so on Tuesday evening, though. That being said, until Biden actually did so, Jean-Pierre was also unable to provide a proper response as to why he had not done so.

From the second reporter onward, questions came wondering "what happened?" Jean-Pierre not only claimed "I totally understand," but also emphasized a narrative that "she was at top of mind" for the president, referring to the congresswoman. If that was truly the case, perhaps Biden should have been able to remember that she had died almost two months ago, as another reporter wondered to Jean-Pierre.

The press secretary appeared to become increasingly impatient. In response to that question, she claimed the American people "will understand when someone is at top of mind."

Throughout the press briefing, Jean-Pierre used the phrase "top of mind" approximately 15 times, and even continued to do so after a reporter rightfully told her that "'top of mind' is not an answer."

During the approximately 52 minute long press briefing, there was ten minutes worth of material of a back-and-forth between Jean-Pierre and reporters. That's not an insignificant amount of time.

The narrative has become that Jean-Pierre, as well as the White House overall it would appear, is incapable of defending or even explaining such bizarre moments from the president. It doesn't seem like they're even trying.

Perhaps a silver lining, though, is that the White House press corp has finally noticed. We'll see how long it lasts.

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1.1.12 Venezuela's Welfare Has Run Out. Now They Want Ours (2022-09-30 14:09)

The massive news coverage of Gov. Ron DeSantis' "political stunt" of sending 50 illegal aliens to Martha's Vineyard reminds me of the media's "political stunt" of referring to illegals as "legal asylum-seekers."

Number one: They broke into our country. They're illegal aliens. Number two: All asylum claims are frauds. [1]Every single one.

Asylum is nothing but a conveyer belt to bring the worst people on Earth to our shores. *You say you turned your own country into a hellhole? Fantastic! Come right in!*

No one gets asylum from a well-run country. Why would we want to admit people who have demonstrated the wisdom, foresight and diligence to produce a functioning society? Rewards await only those who've participated in the creation of complete disaster zones. (Just think of what these great thinkers could do for *our* country!)

Take the Venezuelan illegal aliens whom DeSantis sent to Martha's Vineyard. Biden's press secretary and human kewpie doll, Karine Jean-Pierre, repeatedly [2]referred to the briefly loved illegals as "people who are fleeing communism, who are fleeing hardship ... desperate people — people who are trying to come here because they're fleeing communism themselves."

How did Venezuela become communist again?

As The Martha's Vineyard Times [3]explained (once the illegals were safely expelled and the island fumigated), Venezuela's "humanitarian crisis" resulted from that country's "complicated political and socioeconomic history."

Actually, it's not that complicated. Poor people in Venezuela voted for it. Oh boy, did they vote for it.

The ridiculous peasant Hugo Chavez promised Venezuela's poor that he would take [4]vengeance on the rich — "the [5]squalid ones" — and give their stuff to the poor.

Millions of poor people responded: *YESSSSS!!!*

Beginning in 1998, and five times after that, the poor came out in droves to support this clown. *Fist pumping! Dancing in the streets! Red shirts as far as the eye could see!*

As The New York Times [6]described it, “To the adoring, impoverished masses who catapulted him to power, Hugo Chavez Frias is El Comandante, their protector and benefactor, the bold leader who will wipe out 40 years of inequality and corruption and redirect this country’s enormous oil wealth to better their lives.”

Chavez basically promised to deliver the Ta-Nehisi Coates “[7]equity” agenda that’s so popular with the Democratic Party right now. The poor believed the rich were rich because they had stolen from the poor. Chavez vowed to take it back. It was sort of a [8]1619 Project for Venezuela.

As promised, Chavez proceeded to seize private businesses, farms (by 2011, he’d expropriated [9]6 million acres of farmland) and golf resorts, telling poor people to move onto the club greens.

Anybody want asylum yet? Nope!

Between 1998 and Chavez’s death in 2013 — whereupon he was promptly replaced with his handpicked successor, President Nicolas Maduro — Venezuela’s poor voted for him over and over and over again: in 1998 (80 % public approval rating his first year in office), in 2000 (winning 60 % of the vote), in 2004 (59 % against recalling him), in 2006 (winning 63 % of the vote), in 2009 (54 % voted to make him president for life) and finally in 2012 (winning 55 % of the vote).

Never has any public been polled more often and returned the same resounding answer.

Well, they're not fist-pumping anymore. Instead, Venezuela's poor are claiming they "deserve" to access America's generous welfare state.

Twenty years of Chavez's Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (DIE!) produced this: "a [10]country whose economy has collapsed ... malnutrition and disease are soaring [and m]illions have emigrated to escape the grind of finding enough to eat, of living without reliable electricity or tap water," as Bloomberg News put it in 2019.

Venezuela is sitting on the largest oil reserves in the world, and the communists still couldn't get it to work.

Who could have seen that coming??? Oh, anyone with two functioning brain cells. There were little hints, like Chavez promising his very first year in office "to follow the path of Fidel," and describing Cuba as "[11]a sea of happiness, social justice and true peace."

Millions of Venezuela's poor thought that sounded just peachy, and the rest did nothing. They act as if this 100 % predictable catastrophe was a natural disaster for which they bear no responsibility.

Yeah, I definitely want these people as my fellow citizens. They've shown solid judgment.

Now that their own choices have wrecked their country, they demand free admission into ours. Unless they're professional baseball players, I'm not seeing what's in it for us.

In the kewpie doll's press conference proclaiming that these innocent little lambs "deserve better" (than being sent to a fabulous beach resort), she cheerfully listed the great heaping portions of welfare being ladled out to Hispanics:

"[O]ur administration has delivered billions of dollars in loans to Hispanic small businesses, expanded the child tax credit to provide help to millions of families and reduce Hispanic child poverty by more than 40 %, expanded access to quality healthcare to thousands of Latino families ... And thanks to President Biden's student loan debt relief program, almost half of Latino students with federal loans will see their debts forgiven."

The Democratic Party is cribbing Chavez's lines. And it will work, because the same people who fell for it last time will be voting for it here.

To be sure, the Venezuelan "asylum-seekers" aren't any worse than other members of that illustrious group. If (when) they are granted asylum, these poor decision-makers will join:

— Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the Boston Marathon [12]bombers (sometimes, they're persecuted for a reason);

— Ibragim [13]Todashev, who, along with Tamerlan, slit the throats of three Jewish men in Boston;

— Beatrice Munyenyezi, [14]a genocidal Rwandan, who won asylum by lying about being a victim of the genocide, rather than a perpetrator.

Those are just a few of our standout asylum grantees. To be fair, the illegal Venezuelans haven't killed anybody yet, as far as we know. They're more like a homeless guy who shows up on your doorstep after a lifetime of bad choices and demands that you give him your house.

Perhaps, just this once, we should defer to the wisdom of our moral betters on Martha's Vineyard and tell the Venezuelans: *We love you! Now get the hell out.*

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1.2 October

1.2.1 Dish Network Ditches ESPN, Leaving Sports Fans High and Dry (2022-10-01 17:19)

Disputes between television providers and networks are nothing new. They happen all the time, but rarely does one of these disputes leave so many viewers high and dry as the current spat between Dish Network and Disney, the corporate parent of ESPN.

Dish Network is in the midst of a contract dispute with Disney, which takes Disney-owned channels like ESPN, Disney Channel, Freeform, and even ABC out of the hands of Dish subscribers, as well as subscribers to Sling TV, the streaming service that Dish owns.

The dispute affects 10 million subscribers and puts sports fans in particular in a bind on a busy college football Saturday. Daniel Kaplan of The Athletic points out that there's an unprecedented wrinkle this time.

"What makes this particular dustup between a content provider and distributor noteworthy is it may be the first time the trend of moving material off of cable and onto a streaming service, like ESPN + and Disney +, has been cited as one of the reasons," Kaplan writes.

Disney's streaming services aren't bringing in money. The company reports losses of \$1 billion over the past quarter between ESPN+, Disney+, and Hulu. Disney is asking for more money from cable providers as well as other stipulations, and Dish doesn't want to bite.

“We don’t think this is fair and that is why we are fighting hard for a fair rate to ensure you get the best possible value from Dish,” a statement from Dish reads.

“After months of negotiating in good faith, Dish has declined to reach a fair, market-based agreement with us for continued distribution of our networks,” said Disney in its statement. “The rates and terms we are seeking reflect the marketplace and have been the foundation for numerous successful deals with pay TV providers of all types and sizes across the country.”

In the meantime, Dish customers who want to watch football games — and other sporting events — on ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN News, ESPN Deportes, ACC Network, SEC Network, and the Longhorn Network get the shaft.

My aunt and uncle in Washington state were among them. They were eager to watch tonight’s University of Georgia football game against the University of Missouri, and Dish Network left them scrambling to find an alternative.

“I hope everyone that has Dish network goes thru the trouble to cancel their subscription,” my uncle wrote on Facebook. “They have taken ESPN and all Channels owned by Disney off. Months ago they took the Mariners off now I cannot watch game day or the Georgia game. The only way these big companies will listen is if we quit giving them our money. So done with cable.”

My aunt wrote that today was “going to be a heck of a day” if they

couldn't access the UGA game. They wound up signing up for Hulu to be able to watch tonight's game.

Baseball fans who rely on Dish will also miss ESPN's breathless coverage of everything Aaron Judge does.

Here's hoping Dish Network and Disney can work out their differences quickly. Otherwise, millions of sports fans could be finding new providers.

1.2.2 The Twisted, Racist Logic Behind The Left's Soft On Crime Agenda (2022-10-03 17:16)

There's generally a sinister, selfish motive behind most of the left's supposedly 'compassionate' policy positions. At its root that motive comes down to raw power. Exploit fears over a novel virus, or the natural human tendency to care about the beauty and cleanliness of our environment, for more power and control. Create and maintain a wide-open border so more future voters will come swarming in. Give enough money away via welfare and other social programs, thereby purchasing multiple generations of dependent voters who believe they can't afford to vote any other way. You get the picture.

But of late, many of the left's obsessions don't seem to be about power alone. Instead, they are about belief in the tenets of what can only be described as a cult ... the cult of wokism. To the wokist, a quasi-religion that has captured the hearts and minds of a vast majority of Democrats and even some Republicans, the logic, the viability, and even the popularity of their truth claims do not matter in the least. Instead, what matters is that those truth claims, however absurd and however unlikely most people are to believe them, are openly assented to by all and openly challenged by none.

To what end? It's difficult to say. Maybe they believe the public will come around eventually if all dissent is crushed and the insanity is pummeled into enough brains. It's worked to some extent on some issues, at least on the surface. Maybe a few believe their BS and that they have to adhere to it all to be a 'good person,' and that being a 'good person trumps all, even power. Which would be somewhat altruistic, I suppose, if their beliefs were grounded in any actual truth. But they aren't, sadly, and so we're stuck with nonsense like women are men, men are women, all cultures are of equal value, 'whiteness' is the cause of all evil in the world, and driving an electric car will stop hurricanes, or something.

Of course, belief is one thing. Believe what you want. I don't care. But when the wackiest of those beliefs start driving implemented policies, things start to go especially awry. Enter the left's inexplicable (at least until this column) soft-on-crime agenda, a perfect example of a woke policy position that has few electoral upsides. Is emptying prisons, arresting almost no one, and filling the streets with violent criminals a recipe for electoral success? History and polling suggest otherwise, yet here we are, with most Democrats advocating vehemently, as if their souls depend on it, for exactly those things.

Insane policy positions like this don't lead to obtaining power, only losing it. Law and order have always been and will continue to remain a key issue driving GOP turnout. Yet, leftists continue to insist on giving their political opponents fuel because, in a twisted way, soft-on-crime policies perfectly align with their wokist religion, a religion that demands adherence despite all political downsides.

I believe the explanation for their weird stand on this particular issue involves digging deeper into a key foundation of wokism – the desire for equity. Instead of fostering equality of opportunity and letting the chips fall where they may, people who believe in 'equity' – as I explain in [1]this Townhall column from July – seek to use any means necessary in pursuit of equality of actual results. Thus, if one favored group is doing poorly in a particular area, it must mean that the 'oppressor' group (read: white people) are in some way hoarding resources or doing something to actively hold the protected group down. The leftist 'solution' to this on the economic

front tends to be a radical redistribution of wealth and even, in some places, land.

While that's disastrous enough, it's even worse when applied to criminal justice. Here's the problem: In America, a significant percentage – and sometimes the majority – of violent crimes [2]are unfortunately committed by black people, particularly young black males, less than a quarter of a group that itself only comprises 13 % of the population. Now, without belaboring this and while acknowledging the fact that the majority of black people in America are law-abiding citizens who don't like being victims of crime any more than any other people group, this presents a real dilemma for equity believers.

Tragically, their 'solution' to this problem is as evil, destructive, and unjust as it gets. On the one side, they believe in arresting fewer black individuals for crimes, which typically starts with reducing policing in majority-black areas. While this is a horrible cost to law-abiding black families just trying to raise their children in safety, it's a small price to pay for equity, or so the 'reasoning' goes. On the other end, I think they believe the numbers can be balanced by arresting and imprisoning more white people. One might think the fact that white people tend to commit fewer violent crimes would be a problem for them, but it's easily overcome by making as many non-violent paperwork and process crimes punishable by prison as possible.

Don't believe me? Do you hear the Garland Justice Department promising to "crack down" on actual violent crime on our streets with the [3]same energy they're 'protecting' society from 'dangerous' white-collar criminals? This is the kind of logic that drops charges against looters, street thugs, and arsonists but imprisons and ruins the lives of hundreds of people for basically walking into the Capital building on January 6th. It's the kind of evil that lets violent crime reign on the streets of Chicago but

sends twenty FBI agents to arrest a father of seven for pushing his son's assailant down on the steps of an abortion clinic. It's the worst kind of anarcho-tyranny, made even eviler because of its twisted racial tinge.

No, I'm not excusing genuine white-collar crime. But – and I know some conservatives will disagree with me here – just as with minor theft and drug offenses, the punishment for such crimes, regardless of race, should focus more on restitution, rehabilitation, and prevention than incarceration, while society should be physically protected from violent criminals – again, regardless of race. If you believe race should enter the equation on such matters at all, you are the very definition of a racist. But then, leftists have always been the greatest at accusing others of evils they are actively participating in themselves.

1. <https://townhall.com/columnists/scottmorefield/2022/07/18/using-the-impossible-goal-of-equity-for-political-gain-n2610365>
2. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2017/crime-in-the-u.s.-2017/tables/table-43>
3. https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2021/10/28/Justice-Department-white-collar-crimes-corporate-Lisa-Monaco/9321635440413/

1.2.3 Joe Biden Compares Himself to Satan in Tweet About Democrats' Plan to 'Codify Roe v. Wade' (2022-10-03 17:16)

President Joe Biden has been incessantly bringing up abortion, in hopes that the issue will save the Democrats from losing their narrow majorities in the House and Senate in the upcoming November midterm elections. On Sunday night, Biden's tactic got even more desperate, and bizarre, as he appeared to compare himself to the Devil.

My dad used to say, "Joey, don't compare me to the Almighty. Compare me to the alternative."

And

here's the deal: Democrats want to codify Roe. Republicans want a national ban on abortion. The choice is clear.— Joe Biden (@JoeBiden) [1]October 3, 2022

Biden's tweet mentions how his father told him "don't compare me to the Almighty," but "to the alternative," presumably the Devil. The president then goes on to tweet a seemingly unrelated point claiming "Democrats want to codify Roe. Republicans want a national ban on abortion," and that "The choice is clear."

In addition to making quite an odd comparison, Biden isn't even being all that truthful. As [2]Guy has highlighted, the Democrats don't merely want to "codify *Roe v. Wade*," but rather expand it through extremist legislation known as the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA). The bill would not only make abortion legal up until birth without limit, it would invalidate pro-life laws passed at the state level.

Further, the "national ban on abortion" that Biden is referring to is a 15-week abortion ban, with exceptions, to reflect that unborn children [3]can feel pain at this point and that [4]the particularly brutal method is also more dangerous for women. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) [5]introduced the legislation last month.

Last I checked republicans wanted a national time limit for abortion. A 15 week limit. Why do the democrats constantly lie? For real it's all they have.— Ashley (@ashleykaycromer) [6]October 3, 2022

The Sunday night tweet brought about considerable attention, and [7]as our friends at Twitchy highlighted, some suggested the tweet was so nonsensical that it actually made it likely Biden himself wrote it.

This is the first time ever I believe you might send your own tweets.— Fuzzy Chimp
???? (@fuzzychimpcom) [8]October 3, 2022

50 years after Roe you want to codify it? Get real! You had your shot and blew it. Because you used Roe to raise money for your party. Your party used women to enrich themselves.— TheOpinant (@OpinantThe) [9]October 3, 2022

Other users also pointed out how Democrats have a veto-proof majority in Congress before, and yet failed to pass such legislation then. This included during the first few years of the Obama administration, during when Biden even served as vice president. Along with such urgency has also brought about a more radical position from the Democratic Party, which has not only rejected the mantra of keeping abortion “safe, legal, and rare,” but even opposes the Hyde Amendment, which protects taxpayers from having to fund elective abortions.

Biden, who presents himself as Catholic, has brought up faith in the context of abortion before. “I happen to be a practicing Roman Catholic, my church doesn’t even make that argument now,” Biden claimed just last month, [10]as Sarah covered.

The president was referring to Graham’s bill. As Sarah also pointed out, Biden lied about the bill’s exceptions as well, which include rape

or incest that a woman receives treatment for and for when it is reported if there is a minor involved.

The Catholic Church takes an abundantly clear stance against abortion. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), who is similarly pro-abortion, [11]has been told by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco that she should not present herself for Holy Communion.

In response to such a tweet, RNC Director of Faith Communications Andrew Brennan told Townhall that “Democrats will lie and desperately try to distort their pro-abortion agenda to mislead voters. Folks aren’t buying it. In 36 days Americans will vote to reject Democrats’ radical, out-of-touch late-term abortion extremism.”

Such fear-mongering from Biden and fellow Democrats doesn’t appear to be working, as polls not only show that abortion just isn’t that major an issue for voters, but also that Republicans [12]are gaining in the polls.

1. https://twitter.com/JoeBiden/status/1576748620816203777?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
2. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/guybenson/2022/05/06/fact-check-no-democrats-arent-trying-to-codify-roe-with-radical-abortion-bill-n2606839>
3. https://s30912.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2022/09/TalkingPoints_PainCapable2022_Science.pdf
4. <https://www.abortionprocedures.com/>
5. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/rebeccadowns/2022/09/13/lindsey-grahams-bill-on-paincapable-n2613028>
6. https://twitter.com/ashleykaycromer/status/1576764023277645825?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
7. <https://twitchy.com/samj-3930/2022/10/03/lol-wat-bidens-tweet-comparing-himself-to-the-devil-and-pushing-abortion-may-well-be-the-first-tweet-he-himself-has-eve>
8. https://twitter.com/fuzzychimpcom/status/1576915658465742848?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
9. https://twitter.com/OpinantThe/status/1576750682559811584?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
10. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/saraharnold/2022/09/23/biden-says-the-catholic-church-wouldnt-agree-with-lindsey-grahams-abortion-bill-n2613527>
11. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/spencerbrown/2022/05/20/pelosi-barred-from-receiving-communion-over-abortion-stance-n2607598>
12. <https://twitchy.com/dougp-3137/2022/10/03/rcps-tom-bevan-explains-where-the-momentum-is-swinging-with-mi>

1.2.4 The Dumb and Dumber Administration (2022-10-03 17:17)

Americans are starting to realize that their country is in serious trouble. After 20+ months of President Joe Biden and his ill-advised policies, multiple crises are impacting the nation.

When Biden assumed office, the nation's economy was strong. There was minimal inflation, strong economic growth, a robust stock market, and low-interest rates. Today, we have a 40-year high inflation rate, negative economic growth, a recession, a bearish stock market, and the highest interest rates since 2008.

Biden inherited a country that was energy independent, but, today, we are once again dependent on foreign nations and depleting our Strategic Petroleum Reserve to keep gasoline prices from spiraling out of control. Biden declared war on our domestic oil and gas industry, putting moratoriums on drilling in this country while begging Saudi Arabia for increased production.

At the end of the Trump administration, the southern border was secure, and a security wall was being erected. After taking office, Biden immediately ended the construction of the border wall and opened our nation to illegal immigration.

Millions of illegal aliens have crossed the border since January 2021, breaking [1]records. It is such a crisis that former President Bill Clinton noted that the country cannot manage such an influx. In a recent *CNN* interview, he said, "There is a limit to how many migrants any society can take without severe disruption and assistance."

When Bill Clinton begins to criticize the Biden administration it is an admission that the country is seriously on the wrong track. It is a reason so many Democratic candidates on the ballot in the midterm election are not interested in campaigning with President Biden or Vice President Kamala Harris.

The reality is that Americans are scared and angry and want change. Incredibly, Biden continues to insist the economy is strong, claiming that “The great American jobs machine continues to come back. American workers are back to work.”

While a 3.7 % unemployment rate is good, wages are not keeping pace with the inflation rate. The increasing interest rates are supposed to tame inflation, but the negative effects include causing both credit card debt and mortgages to skyrocket, thereby making it more difficult to purchase a home. It is little wonder that the real estate industry is suffering, with home sales [2]20 % below last year’s level.

All this negative economic news is souring the mood of investors and the stock market has turned negative. On Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell below 29,000 for the first time since November 2020. This marks an [3]8.8 % decline in just a month of September.

In contrast to Biden’s misplaced optimism, there is nothing positive on the economic horizon. Inflation will not be tamed soon, especially since the Biden administration refuses to instill any fiscal discipline. The signature bills passed by Congress in the Biden administration have been extremely costly, adding to our national debt, which nears [4] \$31 trillion.

With massive spending bills passed that require more borrowing, inflation will continue to be a problem. Until there is a change in leadership in Congress and the White House, there will be no appetite for any adjustment in our fiscal policies.

On Friday, Biden signed another stopgap spending measure that funds the continued operation of the federal government in the short term and includes another [5] \$12.3 billion in aid for Ukraine. While the United States sends a steady stream of funding to Ukraine, our borders remain open, our cities have become crime hellholes and over [6]100,000 Americans are dying each year from drug overdoses, exacerbated by the Chinese fentanyl pouring into our country from Mexico.

None of these problems seem to matter to Biden and Harris. They are not worried about the economy but seem to be focused on issues such as abortion and “right-wing extremism.” Instead, there is much more violence committed by unhinged liberals. For example, in McHenry, North Dakota, a deranged motorist, Shannon Brandt, was charged with murder after he used his vehicle to kill a young man, Cayler Ellingson, who he believed was a “Republican extremist.”

Sadly, Biden and Harris are not interested in dealing with the harsh reality that their policies have created. As Americans have noticed for months, Biden does not have a firm grasp on reality at all. On Wednesday, at a White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, he asked “Where’s Jackie? I thought she was going to be here.”

Of course, U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Walorski (R-IN) could not be there since she died in an automobile accident in August. Supposedly, Biden knew she died and sent a condolence note to her family. He forgot about her death in the span of a few weeks.

Biden’s mental incompetence is getting worse. Often, he looks lost after finishing speeches and extends his hand to greet a person only he can see.

Vice President Harris offers her own set of problems. This week, during a visit to the Demilitarized Zone in the Korean peninsula, she mistakenly praised our country's "alliance with the Republic of North Korea." On Friday, at a Democratic Party forum, Harris asserted that the federal government should be "giving resources based on equity."

This claim, in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, was denounced by Florida officials. An assistant to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Christina Pushaw, blasted Harris and noted that "FEMA Individual Assistance is already available to all Floridians impacted by Hurricane Ian, regardless of race or background."

Thus, Biden is mentally incompetent, and Harris is the "word salad" queen. Some are calling for the removal of Biden via the 25th Amendment. Ideally, Republicans should demand that Biden submits to a mental competency test. If he fails and is removed, he will be replaced by Harris, a chilling prospect.

No matter how embarrassing his behavior, Biden remains in office, for the foolish Vice President is his best insurance policy. Unfortunately, America is stuck between a rock and a hard place as our troubles continue to mount.

1. <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/09/19/u-s-mexico-border-arrests-record-2022/>
2. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/21/homes/existing-home-sales-august-2022>
3. <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/09/29/stock-futures-are-flat-following-thursdays-broad-sell-off.html>
4. <https://www.usdebtclock.org/>
5. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/29/us/politics/senate-bill-ukraine-government-shutdown.html>
6. <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/drug-overdose-deaths-hit-record-high/>

1.2.5 My Heretical View of Vladimir Putin (2022-10-03 17:32)

Vladimir Putin is the south end of a north-bound Appaloosa. What he is doing in Ukraine thoroughly disgusts me because I hate thugs. A pox on Putin.

But...I

think America needs him. Graciously grant me an audience, and if you disagree, you'll still have all my respect. But hear me out.

I

certainly opposed the Russian invasion of Ukraine. But I kinda understand why Putin would want to do it. Maybe he thinks Ukraine belongs to Russia (it has before), or perhaps he didn't want Ukraine to join NATO and have that organization on his border (I have no clue why that should scare him). Or maybe he did it just because he's a prick. If he is worried NATO might invade Russia, then he isn't very smart. That package of Oscar Meyers is afraid of an 18-year-old girl. But whatever Putin did it, I think it was crummy to illegally cross some other country's borders, without being asked, bringing in things that will kill lots of the local people. Joe Biden thinks that's ok in his own country, but a nuclear war to anybody who does it to somebody else's.

Understand

Vlad or not, he did invade Ukraine, and everybody in Washington got into a tizzy over it. Why? Ukraine isn't next to America, it isn't even close. Ukraine provides nothing of any vital national concern to us, it doesn't even provide Hunter Biden an income anymore (that I know of). Ukraine is a corrupt, one-party state whose leader is every bit as much of a prick as Vladimir Putin. Only politicians in Washington could concoct excuses to flush our money down a sewer like that. "Let them fight their wars." (D. Trump)

So, what's going on here?

Why the fuss? Wars happen in Africa all the time and Joe and Mitch ignore those and don't waste billions of American tax-payer dollars helping one prick fight another. Wars, and pricks who start them, are realpolitik. America has had to deal with them throughout our history; it can't be avoided. Sometimes, we must hold our noses and make contracts with human scum because there is worse human scum out there than the scum we contracted with (Stalin, anyone?). It's called "the world." Accept it.

Russia

is a considerable country that America should keep a wary eye on. However, Putin and Russia aren't the major world threat right now. Putinville is mainly a concern because they have a big pile of nuclear weapons. And lots of resources. And lots of pricks. That is always

disquieting, as in, what are all those pricks going to do with all that stuff they own?

And

because Putin has that stockpile of nukes, it might be a reasonably good idea to at least try to stay on speaking terms with the guy. But what did Biden do? He got involved in Vlad's war, against Vlad, a war where America has absolutely no essential national interest.

Making Vlad mad at us.

And driving him straight into the arms of Xi Jinping.

Brilliant diplomacy, Sherlock Biden.

Yes,

Biden needed to distract Americans from his catastrophic policies. And he's probably still sore at Vlad because he thinks Putin helped Trump win in 2016. But that isn't worth a nuclear war.

I

confess, I'm a China phobe, and that country scares me a whole lot more than Russia does. I lived there, and I can guarantee you that the Chinese are serious about ruling as much of this planet as they can get their thieving, murderous hands on. They aren't playing transgender tiddly-winks, folks, and communists everywhere have proven they will kill anybody who gets in their way, even their people.

Three

major world powers exist today: America, China, and Russia. The Chinese hate us, they envy us, and they think it is their racial right to replace us as the number one power on earth. They are single-minded in their determination to do just that. Russia is strong, but not in our or China's class. But still...worth cultivating, if only because Russia is on China's doorstep. Vlad isn't stupid. Because of China's proximity, Putin might be amenable to building stronger relations with America and the West. Virtually empty, resource-rich Siberia is due north of China. And China knows it. So does Vlad. At least a measure of affability with Putin could give us a 2-to-1 world power advantage. That isn't hay. If a major war broke out, even Beijing would have to think about the Russians coming from the west and the Americans sailing in from the east. Fostering stronger ties with India—soon to be the most populous country in the world and no friend of China's—would be wise, too. They could send hordes into China from the south. Bring Anzac, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan into the deal as well. In other words, surround China. They wouldn't like it, but who gives a rotten fig what a bunch of slimeball communist thugs likes or don't like? IT'S ALL THEY UNDERSTAND! China needs to see a wall, not a bunch of placating pansies. You can call that a "Cold War" if you wish, but it already exists. But our glorious leaders would rather play ostrich until it's too late and we are buried beneath another Mongolian horde (grant me the allusion,

please). Vlad knows all about Mongolian hordes. Biden wouldn't know one if one bit him on the butt.

But, our Bozo-in-Chief made it 2 to 1 all right—against us. For what? Ukraine? Sigh.

I think this is realpolitik here. You have to deal with, and sometimes even befriend, people you wouldn't want to date your daughter. It's just the way the world, which is not a utopia and never will be, works. Putin's a prick, but I would like him on our side against the real danger, Communist China. But Joe doesn't want to bite the hand that feeds his family.

That, and Ukraine, are more important than the well-being of Americans.

I'm out of space. More on this later. I may not know much, but Biden is clueless.

1.2.6 Why Do We Lose Friends in Middle Age? (2022-10-09 12:40)

An old friend and I recently sat down to catch up, and one of the topics that came up was the fact that we'd both — in our late 30s — found ourselves with far fewer friends than we'd had in our 20s or even early 30s. Why does this happen to so many people?

I likened the loss of friends during our 30s to the pruning of neurons that occurs during key stages of development. These friendships, no longer necessary, are pruned and cleared away. This ultimately makes room for more depth and growth in the friendships that we do keep, but it can be a painful and confusing process...and maybe even significantly damaging to our self-esteem.

Here are some factors that could lead to the demise of friendship in middle age:

1) We Just Don't Have the Time

Sometimes the main reason for losing friendships is simply not having enough time. We tend to get more invested in our romantic relationships and careers at this age, and it's also the time most of us start having children (or more children). It becomes increasingly difficult to carve out time for friends. We become more selective in planning coffee and dinner dates, choosing only those few we are most excited to catch up with. We're simply not as "socially promiscuous" as we were in our teens and 20s.

This is also the age when many of us begin spending more time helping our parents and older family members, due to injuries, chronic illness, and the natural decline in health and vitality that comes with old age.

2) We Know Ourselves Better

By the time we're in our 30s and 40s, we've become much more discerning about who we spend our precious time with. We have a better sense of who we are, what we want, and what we definitely do not want.

We often have the wisdom now to recognize which friendships are toxic or are no longer serving our own growth, and so we know it won't hurt to stop contacting certain people. We may begin to see the benefits of staying clear of those who may suck our energy, drag us down, or otherwise be destructive forces in our lives. Life is short. We know to NOT let faux friends ruin it!

3) We Change, for Better or Worse

All of us change and grow as a natural part of getting older and a "side effect" of our experiences. Change is indeed the only constant in life. Sometimes that change includes losing a significant amount of friendships, and sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes the reason for losing a particular friend isn't clear to either party, and that's okay. Insight may come with time.

Sometimes change happens suddenly and unexpectedly, with surprising results. A traumatic event can occur in our life or in the life of a good friend, for example. We could lose a spouse to death or divorce, we could lose a parent or sibling, we could become very sick or develop a chronic illness. This kind of trauma can change us, knock us off our feet, rearrange our priorities, and make us turn inward. Trauma like this can make us question everything.

And "everything" can most certainly include every single one of our friendships.

4) Burned Once, Burned a Thousand Times

Pain results when we are at the receiving end of a friend who no longer responds to our invitations — in other words, when the friendship breakup isn't mutual. If this happens often enough, we can find ourselves becoming needy or clingy with the friends who are still around, perhaps out of a codependent desperation to keep them.

Or, on the other end of the spectrum, we might find that we distance ourselves from our friends — worried or fearful that they will also find a reason to leave. This can ignite old wounds and insecurities, and churn up a lot of unfinished business.

Neither of these extremes are healthy, but they occur often enough to make the list here. We can begin to doubt ourselves as people and our ability to be good friends. Over time, we may begin to struggle with depression and social anxiety. This has led some to suggest that since we have therapy for romantic relationships and therapy for family, we should also have friendship therapy, to aid us in times when fractured friendships have a soul-crushing, psyche-disturbing impact.

Nurture the Friendships You Keep

No matter what causes the loss of your friendships, be sure to nurture the friendships that you keep.

Set a regular time each month to meet up.

Do more than chat on social media.

Do something fun that you've never done together, or partake in an activity that reminds you of the time you met.

Involve your friend and their family in family dinners, outings, and other events. Celebrate your friendship anniversary or an important date that you both cherish.

As with all human relationships, increased depth and connection often comes with challenges, disagreements, and miscommunications. If these “growing pains” are handled with grace, compassion, and patience by both parties, the friendship bond will grow that much stronger.

1.2.7 Republicans Make Their Case to Middle America (2022-10-09 12:41)

MONONGAHELA, Pennsylvania — Whether by design or necessity, the decision by House Republican leaders to kick off their Commitment to America in this river town on the edge of Allegheny County was quite apt.

There is no easy way to get here from Pittsburgh, or from the airport, or from our nation’s capital. House Minority Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana laughed, saying the very point of the Commitment to America is to reach the people and places Congress neglects to the point that it needs a GPS to find them and a dictionary to spell them. The Republicans’ goal, he said, is to show up and hear the concerns of people in places just like this one and to commit as a party to finding solutions.

Scalise told The Washington Examiner that Republicans wanted to go into the middle of America, to a community that really does have to live with the consequences of President Joe Biden’s policies, as well as the legislation moved through Congress by Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. They wanted to do more than just act as critics of the Democrats, he said — they wanted to put forward their own solutions.

“You could hear it from the families that asked questions today, they’re struggling under the weight of Biden’s inflation,” he said. “Families are having a hard time putting food on the table.” He pointed also to the local sheriff, who asked lawmakers what they would do about the escalating crime and fentanyl overdoses, in addition to families asking about their solution to soaring energy prices.

During a tour of Ductmate Industries, Scalise and House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy received a few lessons in welding and high-technology manufacturing. After that, the House Republicans held a town hall event, rolling out their agenda for the country. Twenty-eight House members were in attendance as the Republican House leadership rolled out their plan to control inflation, secure the southern border and fight the escalating crime surge in this country.

McCarthy said the plan includes curbing out-of-control spending, moving supply chains away from China and increasing domestic energy production.

DMI CEO Ray Yeager, who lives in nearby Washington County, said the western Pennsylvania family-owned company has been in the Mon Valley for nearly 50 years. "We have factories across the U.S., but our headquarters are in Charleroi," he said of the facility down the road in Washington County.

Yeager said it made sense for the Republicans to come here, despite the curving back roads and deep hollows you have to navigate no matter what direction you are coming from. "There is a very deep sense of place here, and the people who work here and live here embody all that is good about the country in terms of work ethic and giving back to the community," he said. "I will add, it is the people who live in towns like the Monongahela all across who are getting hurt the most by the effects of inflation, rising energy costs and the fentanyl crisis."

DMI makes accessories primarily for commercial duct systems for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning industry. There were over 400 people working in the facility last Friday. Many of them told me they have been here more than 10 years — several said over two decades. Almost all said they live within 20 minutes of their jobs or just down the street. Most of the workers said they learned their skills for the job at a trade school, in shop class or as an apprentice.

Scalise said DMI is emblematic of so many other small businesses in America: “They have to live with the consequences of Pelosi’s far-left agenda,” he said. “So, when they push the Green New Deal, it crushes manufacturers in America who actually have the best environmental standards in the world, and it emboldens countries like China. Because when Pelosi shuts down manufacturing in America, those jobs don’t just go away — they go to countries like China and India.”

Scalise said the Left is really good at beating up America for doing the work and releasing the emissions, but they don’t acknowledge that Americans do it better and with less environmental damage than anyone else in the world. “Frankly, we should be making more things in America,” he said. “We should be making more energy in America, not less. It shows they live in this parallel universe that is detached from reality of the small businesses and hard work and families who make America great.”

Monongahela sits in the center of Appalachia. It is the second-smallest city in Pennsylvania — a critical meeting place during the Whiskey Rebellion and the birthplace of former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels. It is also the place where NFL great Joe Montana learned to toss a football with his father.

In the decades of the decline of coal and manufacturing, the city has lost half of its population; the median income hovers at \$30,000, with nearly 14 % of the population living below the poverty line.

Scalise says inflation hits people hardest in cities and towns like this one. That's why it is one of the top priorities for House Republicans to address if they take control of the House in November. "It's incredibly important for us to listen to families that we represent, who are struggling, and then go bring those concerns back to Washington and pass bills that fix their problems," he said.

The immediate reaction from the House Democrats was swift, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and every other Democrat immediately calling it an "extreme MAGA agenda."

"It shows how out of touch she is with average Americans," said Scalise, "because those are the big complaints I hear when I go to communities all across the country. So, I'm not sure what group of people she's hanging out with, but if she thinks it's extremist to lower inflation and to lower energy prices and to have parents being more involved in their kids' education, then maybe she's so out of touch that it's time for her to be fired as speaker of the House. I think the country's going to have a big say in November."

In the most recent ABC News poll, Republicans are favored by voters heading into the midterm elections on handling inflation, the economy overall and crime; 76 % of those surveyed say inflation is a major issue, 84 % say the economy and 69 % say crime.

Scalise said that, as Republicans, they just can't release a document and not stand by it if they win; in fact, he says he expects voters to hold their feet to the fire on all of these issues.

"Every one of the items in the Commitment to America represents issues that will be brought before committees and Congress in open view

on CSPAN; bills that will ultimately come to the House floor to carry out the items and the commitment,” he explained. “We will pass those bills through the House, and that’s where getting the public more engaged is really important. Because they go nowhere after that if everybody just walks away. We need people to then call their senators and demand that their senators pass the bills that we will get out of the House to lower inflation, and to lower gas prices, and to secure the border.”

This commitment only works if the public stays engaged and holds everybody accountable, said Scalise. “Including Joe Biden, who will have a choice of whether he would sign or veto these bills,” he added.

As for getting any Democrats to sign on, the eternal optimist says he’s ready to help make that happen.

“I welcome everybody who believes in the great principles of America to vote for these bills and to express support for the Commitment to America,” he said. “This is going to be a referendum during the election, but also after the election, on the view that people have for America. Do you want an America that goes into decline? Where inflation is just a new norm and a border doesn’t exist? Or do you want to get back to the principles that made this country the greatest nation in the history of the world? It’s in jeopardy right now. We can restore it.”

1.2.8 Why Does the Bible Say ‘Neither Sex May Wear the Clothing of the Other Sex’? (2022-10-12 22:16)

A woman must not put on man’s apparel, nor shall a man wear woman’s clothing; for whoever does these things is abhorrent to the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 22:5

This is an extraordinarily important Torah law—though one suspects its importance has not been appreciated over the past several thousand

years, since wearing the clothing of the other sex was rare in societies rooted in the Bible. At the time of this writing, this is no longer the case: this law is widely reviled, regarded as not only archaic, but intolerant, and even immoral. It is therefore imperative to explain what it means, what it does not mean, and why it exists. We will begin with the latter.

As often noted in this commentary, the Torah is rooted in distinctions. Among these distinctions are:

- God and man
- God and nature
- Man and animal
- Good and evil
- Life and death
- Parent and child

- Holy and profane

- Male and female

In the Torah's views, these distinctions reflect God's design—and therefore a Designer. In the biblical worldview, recognition of this design makes civilization possible. The demise of these distinctions would mean the end of civilization as we know it. As I explain in [1]*Genesis*, God spent most of the six days of Creation not creating, but making order. The second verse of the Bible describes the state of the world as chaos ("unformed and void" in this translation) when God began His work. ***The natural state of the world is chaos; the divine state of the world is ordered; and order means distinctions.***

Whenever distinctions are obliterated, chaos ensues. When the arts obliterate the distinction between beauty and ugliness, when doctrines blur the distinction between good and evil, and when movements blur the distinction between human beings and animals (such as refusing to kill a pig to use its heart valve to save a person—see the commentary at Deuteronomy 12:20), these are examples of chaos.

The most recent distinction to be erased is the subject of this Torah law: the distinction between male and female. Its purpose is to maintain this distinction. How we dress is the most obvious way we declare our sex. Therefore, when a man (who looks like a man, has a male name, etc.) publicly dresses as a woman, or a woman (who looks like a woman, has a female name, etc.) publicly dresses as a man, one of the most basic of God's distinctions is blurred. The sex-distinction of the human being is so central to God's plan that it is declared at the beginning of Creation in Genesis 1: "God created the human being in His image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created

them” (Genesis 1:27; emphasis added).

The Torah is not necessarily addressing individuals who identify as, live as, dress as, take the name of, and appear to others as a member of the opposite sex to which they were born—because such an individual is not publicly blurring the distinction between male and female. The Torah is addressing males who continue to appear male (and often even identify as such) but who publicly dress in female garb, as well as females who appear female (and often even identify as such) but who publicly dress as male.

To be clear, publicly blurring the distinction between man and woman is what is prohibited for individuals here. On the other hand, an individual who identifies as a member of the other sex (“transgender” or “transsexual”), appears to be a member of that sex, takes on a name associated with that sex, and dresses as a member of that sex is not necessarily blurring the distinction God made. The individual who truly feels estranged from his or her biological sex is to be given sympathy, not condemnation. If that person does not publicly blur the male-female distinction, that person would not appear to be violating this law.

What the Torah prohibits is the deliberate blurring of the male-female distinction. For example, the winner of the viewed-around-the-world Eurovision contest in 2014 was Thomas Neuwirth, a bearded Austrian man, who performed under the name Conchita Wurst as a drag queen—a man wearing women’s clothing (a floor-length formal gown). He has explicitly stated he is not transgender, but a male who identifies as a male. What he did at Eurovision would be prohibited by this Torah law. So would the practice in America beginning in the second decade of the twenty-first century of “Drag Queen Story Hours”—teachers inviting drag queens to perform in front of children, starting in kindergarten.

How God regards an individual who is convinced he or she is living in the wrong body is not addressed here. I believe God both has standards (that we never blur the male-female distinction) and compassion (for

those few individuals who do not identify with their biological sex), and so should we.

1. <https://www.amazon.com/Rational-Bible-Genesis-Dennis-Prager/dp/1621578984>

Isaiah 48:9 (2022-10-13 12:07:33)

Your “post” is from/by Dennis Prager. You didn’t acknowledge that. Why not?

1.2.9 Disney World fans say the Orlando, Fla.-based theme park has “lost its magic” due to soaring ticket prices, according to a new study. (2022-10-12 22:17)

Disney World fans say the Orlando, Fla.-based theme park has “lost its magic” due to soaring ticket prices, according to a [1]new study.

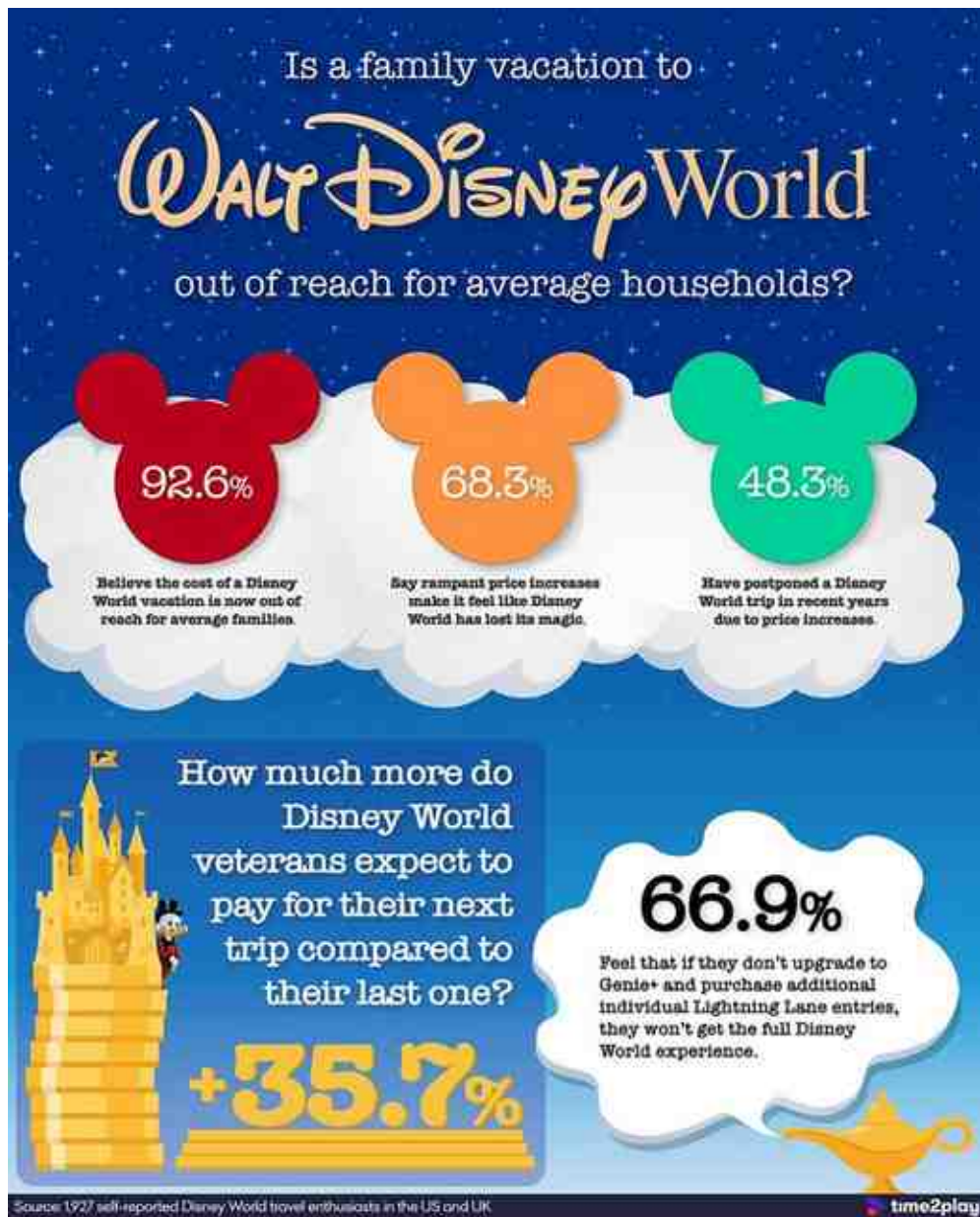
The majority of respondents from a survey, which was conducted by gambling website Time2play, griped that a Disney World vacation is too expensive for families.

A ticket to Disney World’s Magic Kingdom in 1971 cost just \$3.50, the study said. When adjusting for inflation, that would mean tickets would be roughly \$25.60 today. But that’s far less than what tickets actually cost. Entry to one Disney World park ranges from \$109 to \$159 per day, depending on the date and time of the visit.

The survey of 1,927 self-proclaimed “Disney World enthusiasts” found 68.3 % lamenting that the price increase makes them feel like the theme park has “lost its magic.” A massive 92.6 % of respondents said they think high prices at Disney World have made a vacation for the average family “out of reach.”

Nearly 50 % of the survey’s respondents reported postponing a trip due to price increases in recent years. Those still planning to go said they expect their next trip to cost 35.7 % more on average than their previous visit.

[2]



According to the study, the majority of respondents said Disney World is too expensive and has lost its magic.

Disney has increased prices steadily as demand for Disney World and its Anaheim, Calif.-based Disneyland has risen.

The cost of theme park tickets have jumped over the years with data tracking firm SJ Data Visualizations estimating [3]that the tab for admission tickets to the Disney World and Disneyland theme parks have [4]climbed more than 3,871 % in the past 50 years — dwarfing increases in visitors' wages, as well as the cost of rent and gas.

Families [5]told Fox Business how shocked they were over the exorbitant prices, with one dad of two estimating that he would be paying between \$4,000 and \$5,000 bill, even with one of his kids qualifying for free admission.

[6]



The admissions cost at Disney World and Disneyland theme parks have climbed more than 3,871 % in the past 50 years, according to new research.

Matt Day, a father from Kentucky [7]told the Washington Post, that even with inflation and surging demand post-Covid demand, he was astonished at Disney's high prices.

"I understand inflation and all of those things. I understand cost increases," Day said. "I always had the impression that Disney was a family vacation destination, and that impression is why I was surprised to see how expensive it truly was — and how out of reach it is for most American families."

Nonetheless, Disney CEO Bob Chapek [8]recently said that if demand stays high, more increases will likely follow. Already this year, Disney[9] hiked prices at Disneyland and Disney California Adventure in Anaheim, Calif. The popular single-day ticket price jumped 6.5 % to \$164 for admission at one park, while a two-day park hopper pass costs \$319, up nearly 9 %.

[10]



Exorbitant prices at Disney World have put the theme park out of reach for families, according to a new study.

The price of tickets to the Florida theme parks — which include Disney World and Epcot Center — were unchanged, remaining at \$109 for a single-day pass. For a park hopper option, which includes entry into more than one park, the price jumps to \$169 for entry after 2 p.m. The park hopper option costs \$194 a ticket if guests want to get in before 2 p.m.

Ticket prices at both Florida parks can go up even higher if booked on a high-volume day — just like airline tickets.

Disney has also hiked the prices of [11]food and merchandise across its parks. For example, at Disney World the iconic Mickey ear headbands jumped \$10 in price to \$39.99, while the popular Mickey's premium ice cream sandwich and chocolate-coated premium bar rose from \$5.69 to \$5.99, Disney fan blogs [12]Inside the Magic and [13]Walt Disney World News Today reported earlier this year.

1. <https://time2play.com/blog/is-disney-world-too-expensive/>
2. <https://nypost.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/09/disney-world-too-expensive-4.jpg>
3. <https://nypost.com/2021/10/26/disneyland-raises-ticket-prices-citing-strong-demand/>
4. <https://nypost.com/2022/08/03/disney-world-prices-up-3871-in-50-years-more-than-wages-rent-and-gas/>
5. <https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/disney-world-enthusiasts-theme-park-lost-magic.amp>
6. <https://nypost.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/09/disney-world-too-expensive-2.jpg>
7. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2022/03/07/disney-world-disneyland-ticket-prices-fees/>
8. <https://nypost.com/2022/08/12/disney-ceo-says-price-hikes-may-hit-disney-world-disneyland/>
9. <https://nypost.com/2022/01/18/disney-slammed-for-price-hikes-at-theme-parks-longer-wait-times/>
10. <https://nypost.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/09/disney-world-too-expensive-feature.jpg>
11. <https://nypost.com/2022/08/03/disney-world-prices-up-3871-in-50-years-more-than-wages-rent-and-gas/>
12. <https://insidethemagic.net/2022/01/disney-price-increase-food-drink-ad1/>
13. <https://wdwnt.com/2021/08/photos-prices-increase-on-loungefly-bags-ear-headbands-and-more-at-walt-disney-world/>

1.2.10 Republicans and Bias in Midterm Polls (2022-10-12 22:18)

Republicans
always believe the polls are slanted against them. That belief has

sometimes caused them to misread big political races. In 2012, for example, a significant number of Republicans convinced themselves that GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney was actually going to defeat incumbent Democratic President Barack Obama. There was a lot of talk about “unskewing” the polls. Then Obama beat Romney handily.

But

there have also been some egregious examples of polling bias, or at least polling mistakes, in the years since Donald Trump entered national politics. On many occasions, pollsters have seemed unable to measure Trump’s appeal, especially in state-level polls. In the 2016 Trump vs. Hillary Clinton race, the polls showed Clinton winning in three states critical to Trump’s victory — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. In Wisconsin, the RealClearPolitics average of polls on Election Day showed Clinton winning by 6.5 points; in fact, Trump won by seven-tenths of a point. In Michigan, the polls had Clinton up by 3.6 points; Trump won by three-tenths of a point. And in Pennsylvania, the polls showed Clinton ahead by 2.1 points; Trump won by seven-tenths of a point. In the 2020 Trump-Joe Biden race, even when the polls got the winner right, they were sometimes off by a lot. In Wisconsin, for example, the final RealClearPolitics average of polls showed Biden winning by 6.7 points; in fact, Biden won by seven-tenths of a point. And no Republican will forget the Washington Post poll, published in late October, that showed Biden 17 points ahead of Trump. It was crazy — an embarrassment pollsters should not soon forget. So what does all that mean for today? The midterm elections are one month away, and polls are everywhere. The question is: Do the polls have the same old problems? We don’t know. But there are reasons to suspect problems persist. And now RealClearPolitics has begun an exercise in comparing today’s midterm polls to the known errors of polls from 2016, 2018 and 2020. If it turns out the mistakes are happening again, the election results could be quite different from what pundits are counting on today.

RCP took each contested midterm state and looked at the polling average today. Then they averaged the known polling error from 2016, 2018 and 2020 — two presidential elections and one midterm, all with Trump involved. Then they took that figure — the polling error — and applied it to today’s poll, just to see what things look like. Start with the Pennsylvania Senate race. Today’s average of polls shows Democratic candidate John Fetterman ahead of Republican Mehmet Oz by 3.7 points. Then look at past Pennsylvania polls. At this point in each campaign, 28 days before Election Day, the 2016 polls showed Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump by 8.6 points; the 2018 midterm polls showed Democratic Sen. Bob Casey up by 16.0 points; and the 2020 polls showed Biden over Trump by 6.5 points. When compared with the final election results in those years, the polls at this point in the race underestimated Republican performance by 5.9 percentage points. So is Oz really 3.7 points behind Fetterman? Maybe. But if the polls today are misreading the electorate in a way similar to past elections, Oz could actually be ahead by 2.2 points. Again,

that is at this particular moment in the race, not on Election Day. But the polls might have the horse race wrong. Other races might be closer than they seem. In New Hampshire, Democratic Sen. Maggie Hassan leads Republican challenger Don Bolduc by 5.3 points in the RCP average. But factor in the polls' errors from past years, and Hassan's lead is nine-tenths of a point — a far more competitive race. In North Carolina, the RCP average shows Republican Ted Budd leading Democrat Cheri Beasley by 1.5 points. Factor in the old mistakes, and Budd's lead is 6.0 points.

Those are big differences. But there is one closely watched race where the polls, at least by this measure, appear to be right on the money. In Georgia, Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock leads Republican Herschel Walker by 3.8 points. A look at the historical polls from 2016, 2018 and 2020 shows no difference from the final result those years. Therefore, by this measure at least, Warnock's 3.8-point lead over Walker is real. Remember, that is just a description of this point in the race, 28 days before Election Day, but Warnock's lead is solid. And in one race, the earlier polls actually underestimated Democratic performance. In Nevada today, Republican Adam Laxalt is leading Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto by 2.1 points. But past polls suggest that might be an overstatement, and Laxalt's lead is actually 1.1 points. He is still ahead, but it's a very close race. What does all this tell us? In most of the races, even with historical error factored in, the Senate seat in question will not change parties. RealClearPolitics predicts Republicans will not lose any of the seats they already hold and will pick up seats in Arizona and Nevada, and thus win control of the Senate. Maybe so. A more cautious prediction would be one GOP pickup, the one in Nevada. And an even more cautious prediction would be no pickups at all, and a continued 50-50 tie, with functional Democratic control, in the Senate. But we do know state polls have been seriously wrong in the past. Serious people are trying to understand how that happened and what it might mean for today's midterm contests. And right now, it appears the picture could be somewhat better for Republicans than the polls say.

1.2.11 Leftist Teachers Union Boss Endorses Cornyn Civics Bill - Maybe It's a Bad Bill (2022-10-12 22:21)

Randi Weingarten, president of the far-left American Federation of Teachers, recently took a break from [1]demanding school closings and [2]excoriating parents to [3]endorse the federal Civics Secures Democracy Act (CSDA). Despite conservative warnings (see [4]here and [5]here, for example), that CSDA is a Trojan Horse for imposing left-wing civics instruction on K-12 students, Republican co-sponsors have remained stubbornly committed to the bill.

Maybe Weingarten's enthusiastic endorsement will cause these sponsors, led by Senator John Cornyn of Texas, to reconsider.

CSDA would authorize billions of dollars in federal grants to states that comply with the Biden administration's requirements for teaching civics. Given the bill's [6]generous use of code language requiring progressive teaching and curricula – "traditionally underserved students," "civic engagement," "media literacy" – as well as the ideological agreement of many state education bureaucrats who will draft the grant applications, it is certain that the CSDA grant money will be used to teach Critical Race Theory and implement "Action Civics" (course credit for leftist agitation).

Also alarming is the bill's manipulation of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to create essentially a national civics curriculum. By [7]"align[ing] the NAEP test to [the leftist civics community's] vision of history and civics, then [tying] state grants to performance on NAEP," CSDA will enshrine that vision in civics classrooms. Teaching to the test will require teaching leftist civics dogma.

Biden educrats have already [8]endorsed radical Critical Race Theory (CRT) and the bogus 1619 Project (despite [9]retreating from the explicit language of their endorsement), so the idea suggested by Republican CSDA co-sponsor Representative Tom Cole that [10]congressional oversight can keep these ideologues in line is, simply, laughable. Congress won't even monitor the FBI when it sends S.W.A.T. teams to arrest pro-life dads, and we should believe it will monitor the intricacies of civics education grants?

CSDA, then, would enable leftist civics activists to get exactly what they want in K-12 education. These activist organizations include bill cheerleader organizations [11]iCivics and CivXNow, whose involvement appears not to have fazed GOP co-sponsors. But Randi Weingarten is a different story.

Even clueless Republican politicians must know that Weingarten and the union she heads are about as far left as one can go without falling off. Weingarten and AFT bitterly [12]oppose Florida legislation that protects young children from sexualized discussions in classrooms. They [13]help woke teachers develop ways to use the “preferred pronouns” of gender-confused students without alerting parents to what they’re doing. They [14]describe the Dobbs decision, which overturned Roe v. Wade and allows states to protect unborn children, as “terrifying.” They [15]denounce any disagreement about alleged climate-change apocalypse as “misinformation” that must be dismantled in the classroom. Weingarten herself [16]screeches her support of anti-Second-Amendment initiatives.

So now the union boss has [17]jumped on the civics bandwagon. More progressive civics instruction would have deterred “white supremacists” from going to the Capitol on January 6 (or, presumably, from voting for Donald Trump in the first place). It would have kept state legislators from passing election-integrity laws. It would have protected teachers’ “right” to teach radical claims made by CRT proponents – concepts Weingarten has vigorously [18]defended in an op ed as “accurate, truthful information.”

How to achieve this progressive civics instruction? “Let’s support the bipartisan Civics Secures Democracy Act, sponsored by Senators Chris Coons (D-Del.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas),” Weingarten urges, “which enshrines into federal law the connection between civics education and the preservation of a vibrant, functioning democracy.”

Republican co-sponsors of CSDA have consistently [19]denied that the law would or even could be used to advance CRT. But here is a blatant CRT advocate – Weingarten — begging Congress to enact the law.

Weingarten understands the code words that will translate into leftist indoctrination; the bureaucratic machinations that will use this flood of federal money to thwart parental desires; the reality that once Republican members of Congress pass this monstrosity to approving headlines from the New York Times, they will wash their hands of the consequences and allow Education Secretary Miguel Cardona and his henchmen to implement it as they see fit.

This bribery scheme recalls Common Core, in which the feds lured cash-hungry states to adopt English and math standards that turned out to be a disaster. So here we go again – but this time, the stakes are much higher.

If CSDA passes, the winners will be Randi Weingarten and her radical compatriots. The losers will be those who always lose when “conservative” politicians trust the education establishment to provide authentic, traditional education – our children. Senator Cornyn, pick a side.

1. <https://nypost.com/2021/07/11/dont-let-randi-weingarten-whitewash-her-role-in-school-closures/>
2. <https://nypost.com/2022/04/24/randi-weingartens-latest-anti-parent-rantings-are-extreme/>
3. <https://www.newsweek.com/when-we-fail-teach-our-kids-basics-about-civics-we-risk-losing-our-democracy-opinion-1748475>
4. <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/bogus-civics-bill-will-push-crt-on-states/>
5. <https://www.nas.org/blogs/article/open-letter-congress-must-oppose-the-civics-secures-democracy-act>
6. <https://www.nas.org/blogs/article/an-appeal-to-senator-john-cornyn-and-congressman-tom-cole>
7. <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/bogus-civics-bill-will-push-crt-on-states/>
8. <https://fee.org/articles/biden-administration-prioritizes-wokeism-critical-race-theory-in-schools/>
9. <https://blog.ed.gov/2021/07/american-history-and-civics-in-our-schools/#more-30715>
10. <https://thefederalist.com/2022/06/24/cornyn-other-republicans-push-for-biden-administration-to-expand-critical-race-theory-in-schools/>
11. <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/ultra-woke-illinois-mandates-are-top-threat-to-u-s-education/>
12. <https://www.aft.org/press-release/aft-condemns-signing-dont-say-gay-bill-florida>
13. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/aft-promotes-method-teachers-help-kids-change-pronouns-without-parents-knowing>
14. <https://www.aft.org/ae/fall2022/bridges>
15. <https://www.aft.org/ae/winter2021-2022/cook>
16. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1iHUbqKZk>
17. <https://www.newsweek.com/when-we-fail-teach-our-kids-basics-about-civics-we-risk-losing-our-democracy-opinion-1748475>
18. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/27/opinions/teachers-union-critical-race-theory-schools-weingarten/index.html>
19. <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/cornyn-is-mistaken-on-civics-bill/>

1.2.12 Don't vote for Amy Klobuchar (2022-10-12 22:24)

1. Family background

In 2006, Amy Klobuchar became the first woman elected to represent the State of [1]Minnesota in the United States Senate. Throughout her public service - both as chief prosecutor in the state's largest county and now as a U.S. Senator - Amy has always embraced the values she learned growing up in Minnesota. Her grandfather worked 1500 feet underground in the iron ore mines of Northern Minnesota. Her father, Jim, was a newspaperman, and her mother, Rose, was an elementary school teacher who continued teaching until she was 70.

Amy Klobuchar is married to [2]John Bessler, a native of Mankato, who attended Loyola High School and the University of Minnesota.^{[3][1]}

Education

Amy Klobuchar was the valedictorian of her Wayzata High School class. She graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and the University of Chicago Law School. Her senior essay in college, published as the book "Uncovering the Dome," chronicles the 10-year-history behind the building of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome and is still used at colleges and universities across the country.^{[4][2]}

Political career

In 1998, after serving as a partner of two of Minnesota's leading law firms, Amy Klobuchar was elected to serve as the prosecutor for Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis and 45 suburbs. She was a leading advocate for successful passage of Minnesota's first felony DWI law, for which she received a leadership award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Her safe schools initiative, community prosecution efforts, and criminal justice reforms earned national awards, including from the U.S. Department of Justice under both the Clinton and Bush administrations. She was elected by her colleagues to serve as president of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association.

In 2006, the people of Minnesota elected Klobuchar to be their U.S. Senator.

At the national level Amy took the lead to pass the most significant consumer product safety legislation in a generation, keeping foreign toxic products off our shores and out of our stores, and helped push through a new law to protect children from unsafe swimming pools. She also authored a bipartisan law to establish national health standards for formaldehyde in composite wood products, protecting public health and ensuring an even playing field between domestic wood products and foreign imports. She was part of a group of senators who fought for the creation of a bipartisan commission to address our nation's looming debt crisis. And she helped pass the most sweeping ethics reform since Watergate.

As chair of the Subcommittee on Competitiveness, Innovation, and Export Promotion, "Amy has been a leading voice in calling for an innovation agenda that can help grow our economy and create jobs in America".

Amy Klobuchar serves on five Senate committees: Agriculture, Environment and Public Works, Commerce, Judiciary and the Joint Economic Committee.^[5]^[3]

Senate

As Ranking Senate Member of the Joint Economic Committee and a member of the President's Export Council and the Senate Commerce Committee, Klobuchar has been a leader in working to implement a competitive agenda to ensure businesses have the tools they need to grow and create good jobs in their communities.

Klobuchar also serves as the Ranking Member on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, where she has worked to advance policies that protect consumers from anti-competitive behavior and make sure businesses are able to compete on a level playing field.

In 2015 she was appointed Chair of the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, where she brings together senators, businesses, community leaders, policy experts and intergovernmental organizations to help develop policies to strengthen the economy and move the country forward.^[6]^[4]

Minneapolis Riots

In the wake of the Minneapolis riots in May 2020, ^[7]Keith Ellison held a press conference on May 30 with other "community leaders" where he supported the people who were ostensibly protesting the death of George Floyd, and claimed outside elements were responsible for infiltrating the ^[8]^[5]

"People that are trying to tarnish the reputations of the noble protest for justice are out there trying to mix in with the crowd so that people don't just say 'oh look all those protests are bad, their cause can't be just, they're just out there causing trouble.' ...We know that the noble, just aims of the protestors are righteous and good. But we also know that some evil elements are literally defusing themselves with the protest to destroy and cause arson so the whole community has a low opinion of the protest. Because they are not for justice for Mr. Floyd - They're against it!"

From the article:

"Joining Ellison was a long list of community leaders, as well as Gov. ^[9]Tim Walz, Lt. Gov. ^[10]Peggy Flanagan and Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Some were visibly shaken as the gravity of this week's events became clear.

"They're not part of our state, and they're coming from the outside," Klobuchar said.

Other speakers who came together included Rev. ^[11]Alfred Babington-Johnson; ^[12]Mary Merrill; ^[13]Robert Liligren; ^[14]Lul Osman; ^[15]Clarence Castile; Imam ^[16]Asad Zaman; ^[17]Bo Thao-Urabe; ^[18]Justin Terrell.

The community leaders denounced systemic racism that they say have long contributed to inequality and tensions, and said outside anarchists were intent on causing destruction. "We cannot watch our brothers being murdered and, then, on top of that, watch our communities being demolished and then trying to blame us," said Osman.

[19]Emilia Gonzalez Avalos, executive director of [20]Unidos MN, a nonprofit, spoke about how minority business owners on Lake Street, the heart of the Minneapolis Latino community, sought to defend their livelihoods.

BLOC connection

Democratic presidential candidate and U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar made a campaign swing through Milwaukee September 19 2020 , discussing democracy and voting rights with members of the community.

[21]



U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar met on Thursday with members of Black Leaders Organizing Communities (BLOC) at Redemption Fellowship Church on the north side of Milwaukee. Aizma Watson/WPR

Klobuchar, who is seeking the party's nomination among a crowded field of contenders, is making trips to traditional Democratic states that flipped in 2016 during the election of President [22]Donald Trump.

The Minnesota senator said she seeks ways to bolster voting.

"Part of this is (organizing) people to vote and getting them out to vote," Klobuchar said. "The other part is advocating for laws and pushing for laws that are fair so that all people can vote. Otherwise people don't have an equal vote."

Klobuchar, who won her third term and captured rural counties that Trump carried in 2016, made three different stops around the city, including [23]Redemption Fellowship Church on the city's north side. Klobuchar met with members of [24]Black Leaders Organizing Communities, or [25]BLOC, for her second stop. BLOC is an organization that coordinates political action within the black community.

She talked about ideas that she said she would implement if elected president, including same-day voter registration and automatically registering 18-year-olds to vote.

"We should be able to make it easier for people to vote," Klobuchar said. "It should be one of the big priorities of our government. That's just one idea of how we do it."

Members of the organization focused on asking the senator about criminal justice reform, specifically about the controversial 1994 crime bill signed into law during President Bill Clinton's administration.

[26]Angela Lang, executive director of [27]BLOC, spoke for the organization and said they didn't believe investing in the criminal justice system would actually stop crime. She said the bill has increased police presence in the black community.

Klobuchar, a former prosecutor, said she wanted to focus on reducing non-violent federal offenses.

"Our job is to convict the guilty but protecting the innocent," Klobuchar said. "Protecting the innocent means yes, protecting victims, but is also protecting people that shouldn't be in there

Dahl was known for essays such “On The Theory of Democratic Socialism” (1940) “Workers’ Control of Industry and the British Labor Party (1947); and “Marxism and Free Parties” (1948), a “nuanced critique of Marxist thinking about political parties written on the occasion of the centennial of The Communist Manifesto.”

Don Fraser connection

[46]



Amy Klobuchar June 3, 2019 ·

Former Congressman and Mayor [47]Don Fraser died at age 95. In my first run for office, Don was a campaign co-chair and took to the podium to introduce me. He was a great public servant but also a mentor to the next generation. He got that his public service didn’t end with him. June 2, 2019 Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) released the following statement honoring the life of her friend [48]Don Fraser, former Congressman and Minneapolis mayor, who died earlier today.

“The State of Minnesota has lost a true champion for good. Don and Arvonne Fraser were neighbors and friends. Don Fraser was always ahead of his time. As a congressman he fought for the environment and human rights and exposed human rights abuses around the world. As the Mayor of Minneapolis he advocated for early childhood education. My first job in Democratic politics was as the volunteer executive director of the DFL Education Foundation, a group Don Fraser founded. His mission? Ideas matter in politics. He lived that.”[49][10]

“He was my mentor in politics,” said Senator Amy Klobuchar. “He is someone that was a quiet leader, who would listen to people and then make decisions.”[50][11]

Wellstone connection



As senators, we've experienced firsthand the lasting personal impression he made in Washington.

As an educator, an activist and a senator, Paul inspired people throughout America. His mission was to bring a voice to the voiceless, power to the powerless and justice to those who've suffered injustice.

Above all, he brought the hope to all of us that, by working together, it's possible to change the world and make tomorrow better than today.^{[63][15]}

Wellstone legacy

Five years after his death in a plane crash, [64]Paul Wellstone still has a powerful hold on Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

No sooner than she introduces herself as the new Democratic senator from Minnesota, it seems someone else has a story about Wellstone, the late two-term senator whose political roots still run deep in their home state, on Capitol Hill and beyond.

"It's not just [65]Ted Kennedy telling stories about him," Klobuchar said. "You've got police officers, secretaries, anybody. ... They all want to talk about Paul and how he always treated people with such respect and dignity."

Lawmakers marked the anniversary of Wellstone's death with speeches on Thursday, remembering his infectious personality and fiery brand of progressive politics and savoring his legacy, from the new crop of leaders inspired by him to the mental health legislation that bears his name.[66][16]

Wellstone Memorial

Organizers have announced the date of a memorial in Washington, D.C., to honor Minnesota Sen. [67]Paul Wellstone and others killed in a plane crash 10 years ago.

[68]Wellstone Action and Sens. Amy Klobuchar and [69]Al Franken will host the event Nov. 28, 2012 at the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Wellstone, his wife Sheila, their daughter, Marcia Wellstone Markuson, three campaign staffers ([70]Tom Lopic, [71]Mary McEvoy, and [72]Will McLaughlin) and two pilots were killed Oct. 25, 2002, when their plane crashed in northern Minnesota.

Event organizers plan to remember the victims and hear how Wellstone's legacy continues today. They also will present the annual Sheila Wellstone Institute Awards to those who continue her work to end domestic and sexual violence.[73][17]

"Paul told me I should run for office"



[74]

Amy Klobuchar on [75]Paul Wellstone October 25, 2017;

Paul told me I should run for office. He taught me the importance of purpose in politics. He taught me how to campaign

Honoring Wellstone/Domenici Act

October 9, 2018 WASHINGTON- U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and [76]Tina Smith (both D-MN) introduced a resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the enactment of the [77]Paul Wellstone and [78]Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). The MHPAEA ensures that health insurance companies don't impose less favorable limitations on mental health or substance abuse use disorder benefits than on medical or surgical benefits, and in so doing greatly expanded Americans' access to treatment for mental illness.

"[79]Paul Wellstone was a crusader, an inspiration and a friend. He was a passionate champion for those suffering from mental illness, always fighting for better care, better services and better representation for patients. In 2008, the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act was enacted and named in his honor, finally bringing mental health parity to health insurance coverage," Klobuchar said. "With this resolution, we honor Paul's legacy and this landmark legislation that has changed the lives of millions of Americans living with mental illness who faced unfair discrimination in their access to affordable health care treatment."

"Throughout his life, [80]Paul Wellstone always stood up for people who were powerless and often forgotten," Smith said. "His groundbreaking efforts to make life better for those with mental health issues are a major part of his legacy, and his bipartisan work on mental health parity has helped millions of people in Minnesota and across the country get the help they need and deserve. I'm proud to hold his seat, and I'm proud to honor his work with this resolution." [81][18] **mnpACT!**

Amy Klobuchar Candidate for US Senate, was a speaker at [82]mnpACT! December 2005. [83][19]

Take Back America Conferences

Amy Klobuchar was on the list of 237 speakers at the 2007 [84]Take Back America conference, which was organized by the [85]Institute for Policy Studies, and [86]Democratic Socialists of America dominated [87]Campaign for America's Future. [88][20]

Blue Green Alliance

The [89]Blue Green Alliance sponsors the annual Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference. The 2009 conference was held from Feb. 4-6, 2009. Conference speakers included: [90][21]

- [91]Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Senator [92]Sherrod Brown, [93]Ohio
- U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, [94]Minnesota
- U.S. Senator [95]Debbie Stabenow, [96]Michigan
- Governor [97]Martin O'Malley, [98]Maryland
- Governor [99]Kathleen Sebelius, [100]Kansas
- Congressman [101]Keith Ellison, Fifth District, [102]Minnesota

- *[103]Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, [104]United Nations Under-Secretary General*
- *[105]Cathy Zoi, CEO, [106]Alliance for Climate Protection*
- *[107]Richard Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer, [108]AFL-CIO*
- *[109]Leo W. Gerard, International President, [110]United Steelworkers*
- *[111]Larry Cohen, President, [112]Communications Workers of America*
- *[113]Van Jones, Founding President, [114]Green For All*

Minnesota Peace Project

In 2009, [115]Roxanne Abbas, of [116]Women Against Military Madness, helped form the [117]Minnesota Peace Project.



[118]

MPP's Roxanne Abbas with Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar

"Never a meeting without an action!" Most of us know and live by WAMM's motto, but we don't all have the same preferred mode of action. Some like to hit the streets. Some write letters to the editor. Some plan or attend educational programs. Some lobby their members of Congress. And some do it all.

Several WAMM members are leading the development of a statewide network of peace activists and groups with the working name "the Minnesota Peace Project" to influence foreign policy through their elected officials in the U.S. House and Senate. The group, which is organized by Congressional district, plans to use dialogue techniques to build a mutual understanding of each other's views and to present documented information from reliable sources to build credibility. District groups will function semiautonomously based on the issues of greatest concern to their members and their opportunities to influence their representative.

Although the project is still in the organizational stages, there has been some progress to report:

[119]Keith Ellison and [120]Wellstone Action have both offered to conduct a training session on lobbying techniques for group members.

A meeting was held with Amy Klobuchar aides to present the Peace Agenda and to exchange perspectives on the Israel/Palestine conflict. [121][22]

Lobbied by Minnesota Peace Project 2009

In 2009 Senator Amy Klobuchar told a delegation from the [122]Minnesota Peace Project that she would cosponsor the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act (S.416). After months of intense lobbying by peace advocates throughout the state, Klobuchar agreed to support the bill that would prohibit the United States from using unreliable cluster munitions systems (virtually all such systems). [123][23]

2010

A summary of the meeting notes with Senator Amy Klobuchar's staff which occurred on February 3, 2010 regarding the brief trip the Senator made into Afghanistan in January 2009. The Senator's staff provided answers to all questions and the MPP prepared the meeting notes. The MPP sent the notes back to the Senator's office to ensure that the notes and the responses given by the staff truly reflected the Senator's perspectives on the issues. The answers to the last two questions, however, are still being revised by the Senator's office and will be posted by the MPP as soon as they are received. The MPP decided to post the meeting notes without the final answers to the last two questions because of the urgency of the new debate

in the Congress regarding additional funds for the war in Afghanistan. Meeting Notes with the Staff of Senator Amy Klobuchar February 3, 2010 Attending: (Staff) [124]Joe Campbell, [125]Marian Grove, [126]John Kavanagh, and [127]Tom Sullivan (MPP) [128]Roxanne Abbas, [129]Bill Daynie, [130]Dennis Dillon, [131]Jay Kuo, [132]Omid Mahbani, [133]Colleen Rowley

The guidelines for the lobby stressed Congressional support of Obama. With two other Minnesotans, I met with the two Senators from Minnesota, [178]Franken and Klobuchar, and Rep. [179]Oberstar, the DFL member of the House from northeastern district of Minnesota...^{[180][31]}

Marquit went on to participate in [181]JStreet in [182]Minnesota.

NFU Farm Bill rally

September 12, 2012 U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar and U.S. Representative [183]Collin Peterson joined the [184]National Farmers Union and the [185]American Farm Bureau at a rally calling on the House of Representatives to swiftly pass a 5-year Farm Bill; the current Farm Bill expires on September 30. Senator Klobuchar is a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee and worked to craft the 5-year, 2012 Farm Bill which passed the Senate in June with bipartisan support. Representative Peterson is the Ranking Member on the House Agriculture Committee, which passed a bipartisan farm bill in July that has yet to receive a vote in the House.

"This critical legislation will help preserve and strengthen the farm safety net and includes vital livestock disaster programs to support producers during drought," Klobuchar said. "It is time for the House to take action and pass this 5-year Farm Bill so our farmers and ranchers can have the continuity they need to thrive and succeed."

"I simply can't understand why the Republican Leaders in the House won't take yes for an answer. House Leaders are choosing to play politics rather than bringing the bipartisan five-year farm bill to the floor before September 30," Peterson said. "The farm economy is one part of the economy that's actually doing well and has been solid through the past few tough years due, in part I believe, to the strong 2008 Farm Bill. We should not jeopardize one of our nation's economic bright spots. Everyone - farmers and consumers - needs to call their Representatives and urge passage of a five-year farm bill."

"Farmers Union thanks Sen. Klobuchar for her work in ensuring the Senate did its part to get the farm bill passed and Rep. Peterson for his work in the House. It is a critical piece of legislation to Minnesota farmers and consumers," said [186]Doug Peterson, President of the

[187]Minnesota Farmers Union.^{[188][32]}

Anti "speculator" bill

in April 2012 [189]Ben Cardin joined a group of his Senate colleagues in sponsoring a bill, S. 2222, which "will give federal regulators immediate authority to invoke emergency powers to rein in speculators who are responsible for rapidly rising gasoline prices".

There is broad agreement among energy experts and economists that speculators are one of the causes for the rapidly rising price of gas. Domestic oil production has risen to its highest level in a decade, oil supplies are greater today than they were three years ago and demand for oil in the United States is lower today than it was in 1997. Yet gas prices continue to soar.

There is something wrong with this equation. There is no logical reason why gas prices should continue to rise if oil supplies are up and demand is down.

The American Trucking Association, Delta Airlines, the Petroleum Marketers Association of America, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, and other experts all say excessive oil speculation in the futures markets significantly increases crude oil and gasoline prices. A Feb. 27, 2012 article in Forbes Magazine cited a recent report by the investment bank Goldman Sachs pointing out that excessive oil speculation adds 56 cents to the price of a gallon of gas.

This "speculators" bill would set a 14-day deadline for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to take emergency steps to stop excessive speculation by Wall Street traders in the crude oil, gasoline and other energy futures markets. Also co-sponsoring the measure were: U.S. Senators [190]Bernie Sanders (I-VT), [191]Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), [192]Sherrod Brown (D-OH), [193]Al Franken (D-MN), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and [194]Bill Nelson (D-FL). [195][33]

2012 CLW Senate victories

2012 CLW Senate Victories were;

[196]Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), [197]Sherrod Brown (D-OH), [198]Bob Casey (D-PA), [199]Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), [200]Martin Heinrich (D-NM), [201]Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) [202]Mazie Hirono (D-HI), [203]Tim Kaine (D-VA), [204]Angus King (I-ME), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), [205]Claire McCaskill (D-MO), [206]Chris Murphy (D-CT) [207]Bernie Sanders (I-VT), [208]Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), [209]Jon Tester (D-MT), [210]Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and [211]Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). [212][34]

ARA endorsement, 2014

The [213]Alliance for Retired Americans Political Action Fund endorsed Amy Klobuchar in 2014, also 2012. [214][35]

Cuban connections

Senator Amy Klobuchar is very involved with Cuba.

Re-opening embassy in Cuba

August 14 2015 Congressman [215]Jim McGovern (MA-02) released the following statement after joining U.S. Secretary of State [216]John Kerry and other members of Congress for the official re-opening of the U.S. embassy in Havana, Cuba.

"Today I was proud to join Secretary Kerry for the re-opening of the U.S. Embassy here in Cuba. This marks the beginning of a new chapter in U.S.-Cuba relations that leaves the Cold War behind and embraces the power of diplomacy.

"As a witness to this historic step for our two nations, I urge my fellow members of Congress to put politics aside and seize this moment. We should lift the trade embargo with Cuba and build on the progress made here today.

"Normal relations provide us with greater prospects to engage directly with a diverse range of Cuban society. Together, we can create new opportunities for American businesses, increase travel and exchanges, and support efforts in Cuba to advance political and economic reforms and promote human rights.

"I want to thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for their leadership to help make today possible.

"Today, the U.S. and Cuba are united in saying we are ready to create a better future for our countries and our people. Now is the time for Congress to lead."

Congressman McGovern has been a leading champion in the push to normalize U.S.-Cuba relations. In December 2014, when President Obama first announced the new U.S.-Cuba policy, Congressman McGovern joined Secretary Kerry to welcome home [217]Alan Gross, the American aid worker who was released from Cuba the same day. 209

- *[255]Dave Frederickson, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture*
- *[256]Devry Boughner Vorwerk, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Cargill and Chair, [257]U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba*
- *[258]Ralph Kaehler, Minnesota farmer and participant in Cuba trade missions*
- *[259]Rodolfo Gutierrez, Executive Director, [260]Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research*
- *[261]Regina McGoff, Executive Director, [262]Center for Global Education, Augsburg College*
- *[263]Jason Adkins, Executive Director, [264]Minnesota Catholic Conference^{[265][41]}*

“Freedom to Export to Cuba Act”

March 27, 2015 Senator Klobuchar, introduced the “Freedom to Export to Cuba Act of 2015.” If passed, it would repeal or amend the long-entrenched laws that have restricted trade between the two nations during the Castro regime’s repressive rule. The bill’s introduction follows President Obama’s historic use of executive power in December to re-establish diplomatic relations and ease travel restrictions.^{[266][42]}

Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015

S 299, the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015, principal sponsors are Sens. ^[267]Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., and ^[268]Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.^{[269][43]}

By May 20, it had accumulated 33 co-sponsors, including 26 Democrats - ^[270]Sheldon Whitehouse, ^[271]Tom Udall, ^[272]Dick Durbin, ^[273]Thomas Carper, Amy Klobuchar, ^[274]Barbara Boxer, ^[275]Jack Reed, ^[276]Debbie Stabenow, ^[277]Jeff Merkley, ^[278]Chris Murphy, ^[279]Benjamin Cardin, ^[280]Chris Coons, ^[281]Dianne Feinstein, ^[282]Jeanne Shaheen, ^[283]Sherrod Brown, ^[284]Mazie Hirono, ^[285]Brian Schatz, ^[286]Tammy Baldwin, ^[287]Ed Markey, ^[288]Heidi Heitkamp, ^[289]Jon Tester, ^[290]Claire McCaskill, ^[291]Ron Wyden, ^[292]Tim Kaine, ^[293]Al Franken, ^[294]Elizabeth Warren, ^[295]Michael Bennet, ^[296]Martin Heinrich . ^{[297][44]}

2016 Cuba visit

Minority Leader ^[298]Nancy Pelosi and 16 other House Democrats will join President ^[299]Barack Obama on his historic trip to ^[300]Cuba March 20-22.

Obama will be the first president to visit Cuba in 88 years, and the trip is a symbolic next chapter in his attempts to normalize relations with the country.

The House members will attend along with several senators who previously announced they will make the trip.

The House delegation includes Reps. ^[301]Karen Bass, ^[302]Cheri Bustos, ^[303]Sam Farr, ^[304]Rosa DeLauro, ^[305]Barbara Lee, ^[306]Charles Rangel, ^[307]Kathy Castor, ^[308]David Cicilline, ^[309]Steve Cohen, ^[310]Jan Schakowsky, ^[311]Peter Welch, ^[312]Alan Lowenthal, ^[313]Jim McGovern and ^[314]Lucille Roybal-Allard. House Democratic Caucus Chairman ^[315]Xavier Becerra of California will also travel to Cuba along with ^[316]Eliot Engel, the top Democrat on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Democratic Sens. Amy Klobuchar of ^[317]Minnesota, ^[318]Dick Durbin of ^[319]Illinois, ^[320]Heidi Heitkamp of ^[321]North Dakota, ^[322]Patrick Leahy of ^[323]Vermont, and ^[324]Tom Udall of ^[325]New Mexico are slated to join the trip. Sen. ^[326]Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), who has been a leading advocate for normalizing relations with Cuba, will also attend. Additional House Republicans may also join.

Pelosi previously led the first official House delegation trip to the country after Obama announced the change in U.S. policy toward Cuba in 2014.^{[327][45]}

Muslim Left connections

Amy Klobuchar is very well connected to Islamic leftist organizations.

The "Jihad" Caucus

In May 2015, a group of 14 U.S. senators, led by Illinois Senator ^[328]Dick Durbin and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar, wrote a letter to President Obama urging him to allow 65,000 Syrians into the United States as refugees. This would require a dramatic expansion of the refugee program, and virtually guarantee that a sizable number of ISIS fighters would slip in among them. Frank Gaffney’s Center for Security Policy called these Senators the “Jihad Caucus” because practically speaking, Jihad is what this request will bring.

The 14 senators demanding this massive influx of Syrians were: ^[329]Dick Durbin, Amy Klobuchar, ^[330]Al Franken, ^[331]Patrick Leahy, ^[332]Dianne Feinstein, ^[333]Patty Murray,

- *Chief of Staff:* [421]Brigit Mary Helgen
- *Scheduler:* [422]Blair Mallin
- *Legis. Dir.:* [423]Elizabeth Farrar
- *Comm. Dir.:* [424]Jonathan Beeton
- *Press Secy.:* [425]Elana Ross
- *Dep. Comm. Dir.:* [426]Kirsten Hartman
- *Veteran Affairs LA:* [427]Jennifer Treutel
- *Child/Family Issues LA:* [428]Kyle Maloney
- *Financial Services LA:* [429]Doug Calidas
- *Foreign Policy LA:* [430]Brian Turbyfill
- *Sr. Policy Adv.:* [431]Kevin Lawson
- *Education LA:* [432]Kyle Maloney
- *Elections LA:* [433]Lindsey Kerr
- *Native American Affairs LA:* [434]Brian Werner
- *Dir. of Operations:* [435]Devan Cayea
- *Dep. Chief of Staff:* [436]Rosa Po
- *Office Manager:* [437]Michael Hill
- *State Dir.:* [438]Ben Hill
- *State Scheduler:* [439]Rommel Lee

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1.2.13 Don't vote for Tina Smith (2022-10-12 22:26)

1. **Tina Smith** ... is the junior Senator from [1]Minnesota. Tina Smith was born on March 4, 1958 in [2]Albuquerque, [3]New Mexico, and grew up in [4]Santa Fe. In 1980, she graduated from [5]Stanford University and in 1984, earned an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at [6]Dartmouth College.

Tina then moved to Minnesota to work at [7]General Mills and raise a family with her husband, Archie. They've been married for more than 30 years and have two sons, Sam and Mason.

Tina left [8]General Mills to start her own small business. Since then, she has dedicated her career to working on behalf of Minnesotans to improve lives and ensure that the state government works better for the people it serves. She's served as Chief of Staff to both Minneapolis Mayor [9]RT Rybak and Governor [10]Mark Dayton.

In 2014, Tina Smith was elected to serve as Minnesota's 48th Lieutenant Governor.^{[11][1]}

In 1984, Smith moved to Minnesota for a marketing job at General Mills. She later started her own marketing firm, where she consulted with businesses and nonprofits.

In the early 1990s, Smith became involved in local politics, volunteering for DFL campaigns in Minneapolis. She managed [12]Ted Mondale's unsuccessful 1998 campaign for governor. After Minnesota's U.S. Senator Paul [13]Wellstone died in a plane crash weeks before the 2002 election, Smith managed former U.S. Vice President [14]Walter Mondale's campaign for the seat. After Mondale lost a narrow election to [15]Norm Coleman, Smith began working as the vice president of external affairs at [16]Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

In 2006, Smith left her job at Planned Parenthood to serve as chief of staff to Minneapolis Mayor [17]RT Rybak. In 2010 she was picked to manage Rybak's gubernatorial campaign, which ended after [18]Margaret Anderson Kelliher won the DFL endorsement. Smith then joined the campaign of [19]Mark Dayton, who skipped the endorsing convention and eventually won the DFL primary. After Dayton defeated Republican [20]Tom Emmer in the general election, Smith was named a co-chair of the transition. When Dayton took office in January 2011, he appointed Smith his chief of staff.

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Netroots Nation 2021/Packing the Court

REBALANCING THE SUPREME COURT: WHY PROGRESSIVES MUST TAKE BACK THE [STOLEN] COURT TO SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY Plenary; Fri, 10/08/2021 - 05:00pm (Eastern)

When Republicans stole two Supreme Court seats in an unprecedented power grab, progressives knew our most basic rights were at risk—and that expanding the Supreme Court was the necessary solution. In less than a year since the GOP seized a supermajority on the high court, our fears have come true: The right-wing court has gutted the Voting Rights Act and allowed Texas to ban abortion and place a bounty on the heads of doctors and others who help women exercise their rights.

The Republican Party has controlled the Supreme Court for more than 50 years, despite losing the popular vote in 7 of the last 8 presidential elections. And it uses the Court to govern via minority rule, rigging elections to help them win despite popular opposition, and legislating from the bench when they lose. It's no surprise that new polling shows job approval for the Supreme Court at an all-time low, with a majority of Americans disapproving of the Supreme Court.

The need for reform is undeniable — and progressives are meeting the moment. Earlier this year, House Judiciary Committee Chairman [33]Jerrod Nadler, Courts Subcommittee Chairman [34]Hank Johnson, Rep. [35]Mondaire Jones, and Sen. [36]Ed Markey introduced the Judiciary Act of 2021 to rebalance the court by adding four seats. The bill now has dozens of cosponsors and the Senate bill is supported by progressive champion Sen. Tina Smith of Minnesota, and more than 80 organizations have announced their support for court expansion.

Co-hosted by [37]Take Back The Court Executive Director [38]Sarah Lipton-Lubet and Rep. [39]Mondaire Jones, this keynote panel featuring Sen. Tina Smith will discuss the urgent need to rebalance the stolen Supreme Court in order to protect democracy and preserve the essential rights of all Americans. You'll also hear from Rep. [40]Barbara Lee, who will speak about this critical intersection between protecting our democracy and passing progressive policy, with a special welcome from [41]Netroots Nation Board Member [42]Arshad Hasan.

Led by: [43]Arshad Hasan

Panelists: [44]Mondaire Jones, Rep. [45]Barbara Lee, [46]Sarah Lipton-Lubet, Sen. Tina Smith

PRO ACT

Advocates of organized labor held rallies outside the offices of U.S. senators in Fargo and Moorhead Wednesday, July 21, 2021 calling for passage of the PRO Act, proposed legislation backers say would create sweeping changes to federal labor laws and reduce barriers to organizing unions.

Labor leaders and activists made a tour Wednesday of downtown Fargo and Moorhead, holding rallies at each of the four U.S. senate offices in the metro area.

Backers of proposed federal legislation that would remove barriers to union organization hold a rally in Moorhead Wednesday morning, July 21, thanking U.S. Sen. [47]Amy Klobuchar for her support of what is known as the PRO Act.

Labor advocates call for passage of bill aimed at strengthening right to unionize

Events outside the Fargo offices of Sens. [48]Kevin Cramer and [49]John Hoeven, both Republicans, took the form of a call to action on the PRO Act, as neither has indicated support for the bill.

Gatherings outside the Moorhead offices of Sens. [50]Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, both Democrats, were essentially thank-you events that acknowledged support the senators have shown for the legislation, which [51]Mark Froemke, president of the [52]Western Minnesota Area Labor Council, described as good for all working people, "union or not."

At one event Wednesday, Froemke read from a statement provided by Smith, a co-sponsor of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

Smith's statement said in part that the legislation would "inject some badly needed reform into our labor laws in order to strengthen the right to join a union and collectively bargain for improvements in the work place."

Froemke also read from a statement provided by Klobuchar, who described the PRO Act as "the

Since getting to the Senate, Smith has co-sponsored important legislation, including a bill to prevent the President from launching a nuclear first strike without a declaration of war by Congress. She has also vigorously criticized the President's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement.

She won the 2018 special election against state senator [61]Karin Housley 53 %-42 %. Now she is running for her first full term, and Republicans think that they can give her a tough fight.

[62]

Hillary Clinton carried the state by only one and a half percent in 2016, and Minnesota could again become a battleground in the 2020 presidential election.

We need to keep her in the Senate, and she needs our support.

Muslim Left connections MAS meeting



[63]

MAS MN - [64]Muslim American Society of Minnesota April 2, 2019 · Meeting with Senator Tina Smith. We discussed the importance of extending the DED status of Liberians, the need to protect the Uighur Muslims of China and the bank de-risking that is negatively impacting Muslim non profits and Somali money transfer organizations.

Opposing Haspel

[65]Yasmine Taeb May 9, 2018:

[66]



Today, the [67]Center for Victims of Torture was proud to co-lead w/ U.S. Senator Tina Smith and Congresswoman [68]Barbara Lee a press briefing opposing [69]Gina Haspel for CIA Director. Thank you also to Rep. [70]Jan Schakowsky, Congressman [71]Hank Johnson and all our partners for joining us.

[72]Nihad Awad was also there.

#StopPompeo



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1.2.14 Don't vote for Tim Waltz (2022-10-12 22:27)

1. **Tim Walz** is a [1]Democratic member of the [2]United States House of Representatives, representing the 1st district of [3]Minnesota.

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Background

The son of a public school administrator and community activist, Congressman Tim Walz was born in West Point, [22]Nebraska on April 6, 1964. Raised in a rural community, Walz spent his summers farming with his extended family. In 1982, Tim Walz graduated from Butte High School along side his 24 classmates.

Walz enlisted in the Army National Guard at the young age of 17, serving as a member of the Guard for twenty years. After high school, Walz worked a number of odd jobs before accepting a temporary teaching position at the Native American Reservation in Pine Ridge, [23]South Dakota. It was his experience at the Pine Ridge reservation that convinced Tim Walz to follow his father's lead and become an educator.

Prior to his retirement, Tim Walz was the highest ranking enlisted National Guard soldier in southern Minnesota. Prior to his retirement, Tim Walz was the highest ranking enlisted National Guard soldier in southern Minnesota. In 1989, Walz earned a B.S. in social science education from Chadron State College in Nebraska. That year he earned the title of Nebraska Citizen-Soldier of the Year.

After 24 years in the Army National Guard, Command Sergeant Major Walz retired from the 1-125th Field Artillery Battalion in the spring of 2005. Prior to retiring, Walz served overseas with his battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.[24][1]

Harvard and China

With his teaching degree complete, Harvard University offered Walz an opportunity to gain a new perspective on global education by teaching in the [25]People's Republic of China. Working in China during 1989-1990, Walz was a member of one of the first government sanctioned groups of American educators to teach in Chinese high schools.

Following his return, Tim Walz seized the opportunity to develop a program of cooperation between American and Chinese students. Walz established a small business called [26]Educational Travel Adventures, Inc. through which he conducted annual educational trips to China for high school students. The business includes a scholarship program that allows students to travel and study in China regardless of their financial situation.

Walz has also served as a visiting Fellow of International Relations at the Macau Polytechnic University, a position that "helped develop his knowledge of China's unique international status" [27][2]

Service

Upon his return to the U.S. in 1990, Walz served full-time in the Army National Guard. He subsequently accepted a position teaching and coaching in [28]Nebraska where he met his wife, [29]Gwen Whipple. In 1993, Walz was named the Outstanding Young Nebraskan by the Nebraska Junior Chamber of Commerce for his service in the education, military, and small business communities.

Married in 1994, Tim and Gwen Walz moved to Mankato, Minnesota two years later. The couple accepted positions teaching and coaching at Mankato West High School where Tim taught until his run for Congress in 2006.

Tim Walz's inspiring approach to teaching has gained him recognition as the 2002 Minnesota Ethics in Education award winner, 2003 Mankato Teacher of the Year, and the 2003 Minnesota Teacher of Excellence. Walz completed his master's degree in educational leadership in 2001 and is currently working on his doctorate at St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota.[30][3]

Congressional Delegation Visit China and Tibet

November 14, 2015 Press Release:

Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska – Democratic Leader [31]Nancy Pelosi today issued the following statement after leading a historic Congressional delegation to Tibet, Beijing and

- Congressman [41]Jim McGovern (D-MA), Co-Chair, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission; Member, Agriculture Committee, Rules Committee
- Congresswoman [42]Betty McCollum (D-MN), Appropriations Committee
- Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN), Armed Services Committee, Agriculture Committee, Veterans Affairs Committee; Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China
- Congresswoman [43]Joyce Beatty (D-OH), Member, Financial Services Committee
- Congressman [44]Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Foreign Affairs Committee, Natural Resources Committee; Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
- Congressman [45]Ted Lieu (D-CA), Budget Committee, Oversight and Government Reform Committee; Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China^[46][4]

Wellstone connection

Wrote [47]Jim Hightower in the Austin Chronicle, December 22, 2006;^[48][5]

One group that is doing a great job of applying organization to agitation is [49]Wellstone Action. Named for the legendary progressive senator [50]Paul Wellstone, this group holds intensive training sessions around the country to hone the political skills of potential candidates, campaign workers, and citizen activists. Called "Camp Wellstone," these sessions empower regular folks to act on their progressive principles, to challenge even the most entrenched political establishment ... and to win.

Begun in 2003, [51]Wellstone Action has been educating and motivating a whole new generation of grassroots leaders who are not beholden to money interests, not tied to old-line political hierarchies, and not afraid to offer a new politics based on ideas and ideals. And now, graduates of these citizenship camps are running winning campaigns all across the country.

In the Nov. 7 election, Camp Wellstone alumni ran for local, state, and federal offices, and 78 of them were elected in 18 states. They will now be state senators, country commissioners, secretaries of state, and even members of Congress – three Wellstone grads ([52]John Hall of New York, [53]David Loebsack of Iowa, and Tim Walz of Minnesota) were elected to the U.S. house this year. In addition, one of [54]Wellstone Action's trainers, [55]Keith Ellison, was elected to the house, becoming the first Muslim to serve in Congress.

Tim Walz team 2010

[56]David Richard Gilbert-Pederson October 27, 2010:

[57]



With [58]Susy Bates, [59]Andrew Mahowald, [60]Anja Kresojevic, [61]Alexis Pennie, [62]Em Rose, [63]Katie Troyer and [64]Sarah Clarke.

Minneapolis Riots

In the wake of the Minneapolis riots in May 2020, [65]Keith Ellison held a press conference on May 30 with other "community leaders" where he supported the people who were ostensibly protesting the death of George Floyd, and claimed outside elements were responsible for infiltrating the [66][6]

"People that are trying to tarnish the reputations of the noble protest for justice are out there trying to mix in with the crowd so that people don't just say 'oh look all those protests are bad, their cause can't be just, they're just out there causing trouble.' ...We know that the noble, just aims of the protestors are righteous and good. But we also know that some evil elements are literally defusing themselves with the protest to destroy and cause arson so the whole community has a low opinion of the protest. Because they are not for justice for Mr. Floyd - They're against it!"

From the article:

"Joining Ellison was a long list of community leaders, as well as Gov. Tim Walz, Lt. Gov. [67]Peggy Flanagan and Sen. [68]Amy Klobuchar.

Some were visibly shaken as the gravity of this week's events became clear.

"They're not part of our state, and they're coming from the outside," Klobuchar said.

Other speakers who came together included Rev. [69]Alfred Babington-Johnson; [70]Mary Merrill; [71]Robert Lili-gren; [72]Lul Osman; [73]Clarence Castile; Imam [74]Asad Zaman; [75]Bo Thao-Urabe; [76]Justin Terrell.

The community leaders denounced systemic racism that they say have long contributed to inequality and tensions, and said outside anarchists were intent on causing destruction.

"We cannot watch our brothers being murdered and, then, on top of that, watch our communities being demolished and then trying to blame us," said Osman.

[77]Emilia Gonzalez Avalos, executive director of [78]Unidos MN, a nonprofit, spoke about how minority business owners on Lake Street, the heart of the Minneapolis Latino community, sought to defend their livelihoods.

Politics

On November 7, 2006 Tim Walz won election to the United States House of Representatives. He defeated six-term incumbent [79]Gil Gutknecht by a margin of 53 % to 47 %. On November 4, 2008 Walz was re-elected overwhelmingly in the traditional swing district held by Republicans most of its existence.

Tim Walz represents Minnesota's 1st Congressional District which includes the communities of Worthington, Mankato, Albert Lea, Austin, Rochester and Winona.^{[80][7]}

Committees

Walz is a member of the House Agriculture Committee, the Veteran's Affairs Committee and was recently named Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which Tim is also a member.^{[81][8]}

Supported by Council for a Livable World

The [82]Council for a Livable World, founded in 1962 by long-time socialist activist and alleged Soviet agent, [83]Leo Szilard, is a non-profit advocacy organization that seeks to "reduce the danger of nuclear weapons and increase national security", primarily through supporting progressive, congressional candidates who support their policies. The Council supported Tim Walz in his successful House of Representatives run as candidate for Minnesota.^{[84][9]}

Planned Parenthood

Walz received \$5000 in lobbying funds from [85]Planned Parenthood in 2008.

Lobbied by communist Mark Froemke

Minnesotans were well-represented at the June 25, 2009 Washington DC rally for health care reform. Among the union members urging Sen. [86]Amy Klobuchar, Rep. Tim Walz and Rep.

~~[87]~~Collin Peterson to support health care reform that will "offer quality affordable health care to America now" were: [88]Linda Slattengren, president of MNA, [89]Laura Askelin, president of SE MN ALC, [90]Mark Froemke, president of the Western Minnesota ALC and [91]Tim Levenson,

- [104]Amber Cheree Allen
- [105]Nathan Arch
- [106]Amina Arte
- [107]Justin Backlund
- [108]Timothy Bertocci
- [109]Judith Bird
- [110]Jennifer Boelter
- [111]Jeremy Bratt
- [112]John Briley
- [113]Kasey Brown
- [114]Adam Corbin
- [115]Andrea Fetherston
- [116]Amanda Frie
- [117]Francy Hall
- [118]Mark Henson
- [119]Richard Howden III
- [120]Brian Kessler
- [121]Alisha Kruger
- [122]Chad Larimer
- [123]Grant Leuning
- [124]Gordon Loewen
- [125]Jeffrey Lomonaco
- [126]Carina Marquez-Barrientos
- [127]Craig McDonnell
- [128]Margaret Ann McGlinch
- [129]John Pierce, Jr.
- [130]Ashleigh Raso

- [131]Leah Rosales
- [132]Meredith Salsbery
- [133]Shawn Schloesser
- [134]Marcus Schmit
- [135]Christopher Schmitter
- [136]Sara Severs
- [137]Ann Spicer Murphy
- [138]Katherine Sydor
- [139]Joshua Matthew Syrjamaki
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1.2.15 Don't vote for Ilhan Omar (2022-10-12 22:30)

1. **Ilhan Omar** is a "Somali-American former refugee who was elected to the House of Representatives from Minnesota in the 2018 election."^{[1][1]}

Upon winning her election, **Ilhan Omar** said she would "work on an agenda focused on justice and the common good, zero waste and renewable energy."

[2]



Ilhan Omar's Twitter page as it appeared on February 8 2017

Ilhan Omar describes herself as a "intersectional feminist" on Twitter.^{[3][2]} She is the Director of Policy and Initiatives of the [4]Women Organizing Women Network.

Married to [5]Tim Mynett (m. 2020), Formerly [6]Ahmed Hirsi, and [7]Ahmed Nur Said Elmi Her daughter is [8]Isra Hirsi.

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Background

Ilhan Omar was born in 1982 and is a mother of three. She was "born in Somalia and lived in a Kenyan refugee camp for four years before immigrating to the United States at the age of 12." "Omar began honing her political skills at North Dakota State University where she involved herself in organizations like the [102]Muslim Student Association and earned a degree in Political Science and International Studies. In particular, she worked to shift the perception that Islam and social justice were at conflict. She pushed the message that her Islamic background strengthened her resolve to advance justice and equality. Omar said, 'A lot of the social justice issues that I care about stem from this idea of wanting equality and fighting for equality. That is something that is very much part of the principle of the teachings of Islam. That we are all created equal and that we should all be treated equally in our society... I wanted to live that out.'"[103][3]

Ilhan's interest in politics began at the age of 14 when she was as an interpreter for her grandfather at local DFL caucuses. Watching neighbors come together to affect change at the treeroots level made Ilhan fall in love with the democratic process and in highschool, she became an organizer and has been a coalition builder ever since. She worked as a community educator at the University of Minnesota and has been a devoted progressive activist in the DFL party for many years. Before running for office, Ilhan was a [104]Humphrey Policy Fellow and served as a senior Policy Aide for a Minneapolis City Council Member.

In 2016, Ilhan became the first Somali-American, Muslim legislator in the United States. With the help of her campaign team, they increased voter turnout by 37 %. She was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in District 60B, where she's lived for the past 20 years and where she and her husband Ahmed are raising their three children.[105][4]

Acheivements

- Assistant Minority Leader at the Minnesota Legislature with assignments to three committees: *Civil Law and Data Practices Policy; Higher Education and Career Readiness Policy and Finance; State Government Finance
- Appointed to and Chaired Governor Dayton's Young Women's Initiative

- Director of Policy, Women Organizing Women
- Former Minneapolis City Council Senior Policy Aide
- Humphrey Policy Fellow
- Child Nutrition Outreach Coordinator, MN Department of Education
- Community Nutrition Educator, University of Minnesota^{[106][5]}

Coalition Builder

- [107]VoteRunLead 2018 Keynote Speaker
- [108]National American Muslim Democratic Caucus Member
- [109]Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network, Member of America's Cabinet^{[110][6]}

Community Leader

- Former Advisory Board member for [111]CAIR - Minnesota.
- Former VP of [112]Minneapolis NAACP
- Board Member, [113]St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board
- [114]Oxfam Sister Planet Ambassador
- 2017 [115]United Way Refugee Summit Keynote
- Board Member, [116]Legal Rights Center^{[117][7]}

Legislative accomplishments

- Helped allocate \$5 million for outreach and prevention education to raise awareness during a measles outbreak and encourage vaccines.

- Allocated \$400,000 to the Somali Museum of Arts and \$350,000 for the expansion and renovation of the Brian Coyle Community Center in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood.
- Passed legislation to increase funding summer enrichment programs for low income students who may be unfamiliar with a higher education experience.
- Passed \$77 million in Statewide Affordable Housing and Homelessness Infrastructure bonds to improve housing, including \$10 million for Public Housing Rehabilitation.
- Expanded childcare grants for student parents and fought for them to receive a tax credit.
- Negotiated over \$200 million in bonding packages to improve our infrastructure in district.
- Passed \$15 and paid sick and safe time in Minneapolis.
- Introduced HF 4201, requiring a counselor in every school in Minnesota.
- Introduced HF 3434, eliminating the statute of limitations for sex offenses.
- Introduced HF 2949, changing lease requirements to fight student exploitation
- Introduced HF 2630, funding the prevention of measles outbreaks in immigrant communities^{[118][8]}

Labor Caucus

The [119]Labor Caucus is an official caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2021 members included **Ilhan Omar**. [120][9]

"Fact-Finding Mission" to Central America

April 1, 2022 Members of the U.S. Congress- Rep. Ilhan Omar (MN-05), Rep. [121]Cori Bush (MO-01), Rep. [122]Jesús "Chuy" García (IL-04), and Rep. [123]Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) - as well as representation from the office of [124]Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), joined U.S.-based solidarity organizations, including [125]Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective, [126]SOA Watch, the [127]Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, and the [128]Institute for Policy Studies - Global Economy Program, for a fact-finding mission to Central America. Upon return, the Congressional representatives issued a joint statement, saying:

"We traveled to Central America to investigate the root causes of migration from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, and the U.S.' role in those causes. What we found is a resilient region where corporate interests, international development institutions, and the U.S. government have played a profoundly destabilizing role.

"In Honduras, we witnessed cautious optimism as newly elected President Castro and her administration work to uproot corruption and defend human rights. In Guatemala, however, we saw dangerous signs of regression toward authoritarian rule as civil society is persecuted and principled judges are forcibly removed from office. El Salvador is showing similarly worrisome trends. But the one constant we witnessed, no matter the political context, was the tireless work of organizers and dissidents defending Indigenous, environmental, and human rights.

"While we were overcome by people's experiences of repression, criminalization, disenfranchisement, and persecution, we were also struck by the parallels between their struggles and those our own communities face. We return home determined and energized to advocate for a rights-based U.S. policy at home and abroad."

While in Honduras:

The delegation met with Honduran President [129]Xiomara Castro, members of her cabinet, and the President and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Honduran National Congress. The members of Congress visited the grave of internationally recognized Indigenous leader [130]Berta Caceres, who was assassinated in 2016 for opposing a U.S.-backed hydroelectric project, and heard from her organization COPINH about the continued impunity enjoyed by the powerful actors ultimately responsible for her assassination. Three of those found guilty for Caceres' murder to date received training at U.S. military institutions.

During a visit with the [131]Fraternal Black Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH), three members of the [132]Congressional Black Caucus made connections about the impacts of the war on drugs, militarization, and state violence in Black communities. Leaders from OFRANEH shared how the ancestral lands of the Garifuna people have been affected by agrofuel plantations and tourist projects. A delegation from the Mosquito people, who were victims of the May 2012 U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) killings in Ahuas, joined OFRANEH in sharing their experiences with the delegation.

During a visit to communities organizing to defend the Jilamito River from a hydroelectric project to be financed by IDB Invest, a multilateral development bank of which the U.S. is the largest shareholder, the delegation saw firsthand how international economic development financing can benefit local elites and international corporations rather than those who need it. The [133]Agrarian Platform shared their many years of struggle to defend cooperative land titles in the Bajo Aguan region from powerful agri-business actors backed by military and paramilitary forces, often with U.S. training. Guapinol River defenders shared about their struggle against the Los Pinares mining project in the Carlos Escaleras National Park and that the eight water defenders who were recently released after 914 days in prison have only been granted provisional freedom. Bertha Oliva of the Committee of the Relatives of the Detained - ~~DIS~~ appeared of Honduras (COFADEH) shared about the struggle for justice for victims of human rights violations following the 2009 coup and during subsequent U.S.-backed regimes.

While in Guatemala:

The [257]Debt Collective has also made progress on the issue of medical debt abolition. In 2012, we launched something called the [258]Rolling Jubilee, which involved buying portfolios of medical debt on the secondary debt market (where it is sold for pennies on the dollar), just like debt collectors do. But instead of collecting on the debts, we erased them. Ultimately, we wiped out over \$15 million in predatory medical debt this way. In September, we were overjoyed when Sanders proposed eliminating all \$81 billion of medical debt currently in collections using a mechanism similar to the one we devised.

When we first raised the idea of debt resistance and debt cancellation at Occupy, we were mocked. We've come a long way: Thousands of people have had their loans erased; our efforts have influenced the 2020 Democratic primary; and we're planning an even bigger campaign to ensure full student debt relief and free college become not just proposals but realities. Remember this: If the federal government ends up canceling your student loans, you'll have Occupy to thank for it.^{[259][17]}

Relief of Iran sanctions letter

According to the [260]NIAC website, in March 2020 a team of prominent members of Congress urged their colleagues to sign a letter to the White House calling for immediate relief of sanctions to help ordinary Iranians combat the Coronavirus pandemic.

This is a critically important effort coming amid the Iranian people's hour of need. We need to make sure that Iranians have all the support they need to get medicine and respirators, food and basic goods and services to weather the pandemic. By supporting AOC's letter, we can send a powerful message to the Trump administration: now is not the time to kick the Iranian people when they are down. The U.S. must ease sanctions and send aid to help combat the spread of Coronavirus.

Take action today: urge your Representative to sign AOC's letter calling for urgent humanitarian relief for Iran.

Original signers of the letter include: Reps. [261]Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), [262]Jared Huffman (D-CA), [263]Joaquin Castro (D-TX), [264]Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and [265]Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Sens. [266]Bernie Sanders (D-VT), [267]Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and [268]Ed Markey (D-MA).^{[269][18]}

Qatari asset?

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (D-[270]Minnesota-5th) was recruited by a foreign government, received funding from a foreign government, and passed sensitive information through intermediaries to Iran, a Florida court has been told.

The claims came during testimony by Kuwati-born Canadian businessman [271]Alan Bender, who was giving evidence in the trial of Sheikh [272]Khalid bin Hamad al-Thani. The Qatari emir's brother stands accused of ordering his American bodyguard to murder two people, and of holding an American citizen hostage. His deposition, obtained by Al Arabiya English, was authenticated by the attorney for the plaintiffs, according to the publication.

Speaking from Toronto by video link, Bender told the Florida District Court that he met with [273]Qatar's Secretary to the Emir for Security Affairs [274]Mohammad bin Ahmed bin Abdullah al-Masnad and two other senior Qatari officials.

According to his sworn deposition, the three officials told him: "If it wasn't for our cash, Ilhan Omar would be just another black Somali refugee in America collecting welfare and serving tables on weekends."

Bender testified that the officials asked him to recruit American politicians and journalists as Qatari assets, and that when he objected, was told that several prominent figures were already on the payroll. Omar was described as the "jewel in the crown," he said.

Qatar "recruited Ilhan Omar from even way before she thought about becoming a government official... They groomed her and arranged the foundation, the grounds, for her to get into politics way before she even showed interest. They convinced her," he added. The deposition shows he further told the court that, during a 2017 meeting with Turkish President [275]Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Omar swore allegiance to him. At the time she was a junior state representative in Minnesota.

Omar was said to also have passed information to [276]Qatar which was subsequently handed along to [277]Iran, and was actively involved in recruiting other American politicians to likewise work for the west Asian Islamic country, Bender testified.

"The best thing money can buy is American officials, because they are the cheapest of the cheapest-costing officials in the world," the Qatari officials were said to have told him.^{[278][19]}

Letelier-Moffitt Awards

Muslim Collective for Equitable Democracy Conference [409]



In July 2019 Congressmembers [410]Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, [411]Judy Chu, [412]Susan Wild and [413]Betty McCollum addressed the inaugural [414]Muslim Collective for Equitable Democracy Conference and Presidential Forum July 23-24 at the Washington DC National Housing Center.

Other speakers included [415]Keith Ellison, [416]Abdul El-Sayed, [417]Khizr Khan, [418]Basheer Jones, [419]Omar Suleiman, [420]Sam Rasoul, [421]Zahra Billoo, [422]Catherine Orsborn, [423]Corey Saylor, [424]Daniel L. Weiner [425]Dalia Mogahed, Prof. [426]Asifa Quraishi-Landes, [427]James Zogby, [428]Farhana Kheera, [429]Suhail Khan, [430]Mike Ghouse, [431]Zainab Cheema, Sister [432]Simone Campbell, [433]Scott Simpson, [434]Shaun Kennedy, [435]Ken Martin, [436]Sadaf Jaffer, [437]Dilara Saeed, [438]Luqmaan Bokhary, [439]Nabilah Islam, [440]Movita Johnson-Harrell, [441]Rummi Khan, [442]Ghazala Hashmi, [443]Shahed Amanullah, [444]Sevim Kalyoncu, [445]Ani Osman-Zonneveld, [446]Yasmeen Awwad, [447]Amira Daugherty, [448]Sabina Taj, [449]Asina Silva, Dr. [450]Jay Jalisi.

MAS connection

[451]



Ilhan Omar did not report the incident to police, claiming that she "believe[s] criminalizing hate is not a solution and will only strengthen individual malice." This reasoning conflicted with a Facebook post where **Ilhan Omar** "said she would report the incident to authorities once she returned to Minnesota, citing concerns for her safety because the driver knew the location of her hotel."^{[456][28]}

DSA connections

Ilhan Omar is close to ^[457]Democratic Socialists of America and its front organizations. Our Revolution Minnesota ^[458]



With ^[459]Keith Ellison, Ilhan Omar, ^[460]Patricia Torres Ray, ^[461]Emma Greenman, ^[462]Ryan Winkler.

Earth Day Rally

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021 AT 3 PM EDT 'Green Jobs for All' Earth Day Rally.

Hosted by: Ilhan Omar for Congress, ^[463]MN350, ^[464]Sunrise Twin Cities, ^[465]Unidos MN, and ^[466]Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America.

PDA 2020 endorsement

In 2020 ^[467]Progressive Democrats of America endorsed **Ilhan Omar's** congressional run.^{[468][29]}

DSA friend

DSA NPC newsletter, August 20, 2020:

Congress, too, saw some DSA wins, with ^[469]Rashida Tlaib's re-election and ^[470]Cori Bush's historical win over a 50+ year political dynasty. They'll be joining DSA members ^[471]Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and ^[472]Jamaal Bowman, as well as our friend Ilhan Omar.^{[473][30]}

Our Revolution



[474]

Ilhan Omar

Ilhan Omar was featured as a candidate by [475]Our Revolution, an organization run by former campaign workers and supporters of former socialist presidential candidate [476]Bernie Sanders.^{[477][31]}

Our Revolution influence

[478]Our Revolution has over 200,000 members and 600 groups across the country (and a few in Europe). Under [479]David Duhalde's tenure, Our Revolution won over 70 races in the 2018 general election cycle, including electing [480]Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, [481]Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, and [482]Deb Haaland to the U.S. House of Representatives.^{[483][32]}

Twin Cities DSA connection

[484]Nic Raymond, co-chair of [485]Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America on Ilhan Omar endorsement.

"Should TCDSA Endorse Ilhan Omar + other endorsement thoughts"

Dear Members of Twin Cities DSA,

It's happening again. Over 100 people joined Twin Cities DSA in the course of two weeks in the end of June, between massive anti-ICE mobilization, a local Single Payer Strategy conference, and the victory of [486]Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in New York. We count over 700 members in the metro (probably 800 at the time of this writing, to be honest). Our last general meeting had over 180 attendees. With the growth in membership and energy has come an interest from politicians and officials seeking our endorsement and getting involved. As a co-chair of the chapter, I am torn between my belief that leaders should keep politicking to a minimum but also a feeling that I have an important analysis of where our chapter is, where it can go, and what it needs to do. To that end, here are some personal arguments I have regarding endorsements.

I really like Ilhan Omar. I will absolutely be voting for her at the ballot box. I will probably even knock some doors and make some phone calls for her campaign. I do not think Twin Cities DSA should endorse her.

Members of Twin Cities DSA and the Omar campaign reached out to me shortly after [487]Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's (AOC) victory in New York seeking a DSA endorsement. I informed them of our process, that it would have to be a majority vote by general meeting. We had a discussion about what a meaningful endorsement would be like; some suggestions were getting socialists onto her policy team, collaborating around Medicare for All, and others. Her campaign assured me that they were interested in an honest, two-way relationship.

I have great respect for the organizers at Omar's campaign and have no doubt of their dedication to economic and racial justice, but a 'two-way' relationship with the Omar campaign is increasingly hard to picture. Omar has the support of not only left-wing-of-DFL organizations with far more power and money than DSA (TakeAction, OutFront, MoveOn, Center for Popular Democracy) but also endorsement from the more establishment figures of the party (Mark Dayton, Jacob Frey, the official DFL endorsement). What AOC did in New York with the help of DSA is truly remarkable, and it makes sense that candidates want to replicate it. But consider the differences between AOC and Omar in their campaigns:

Cortez was challenging a 14-year incumbent known as part of the national Democratic establishment. Omar is running for an open seat vacated by one of the most visible Progressive Caucus leaders and a champion for Medicare for All and a \$15 minimum wage.

Alexandria Cortez was a member of NYC DSA and active in their chapter. While I've been told Omar considers herself a democratic socialist, I've been unable to find any public mention of this.

Cortez was a long shot. Omar is, by my judgment, far and away the front runner in the CD5 race.

NYC DSA is a massive organization that collaborated closely with Justice Democrats and [488]Brand New Congress to build an effective GOTV machine and mobilize mass volunteers. Twin Cities DSA, while still the best DSA chapter on the planet (unbiased opinion), has only gotten its electoral muscles working after the conclusion of the [489]Ginger Jentzen campaign and is not yet in a position to provide meaningful, crucial support.

The Omar campaign and I were honest with each other that in no way was DSA providing the crucial number of votes that the campaign needed to get over the top. That means, then, that an Omar endorsement would be mostly about image, messaging, and narrative. These kinds of paper endorsements feel at odds with what kind of organization I want DSA to be. An honest relationship with a candidate is not just me being skeptical of politicians- it's also that I want to be respectful and genuine. If TCDSA endorsed Omar, and Omar won a seat in congress, I would feel absolutely gross if some leftist rag wrote an article like "Democratic Socialists Of America Just Elected A Somali Refugee To Congress. Checkmate, Pelosi."

DSA cannot have the same electoral approach as an [490]Our Revolution or a MoveOn. Our goal is not to get the leftmost-possible candidates elected; it's to build an independent, self-run institution that is democratically accountable with an end goal of building socialism. To this end, we must be strategic and measured in how we engage in electoral politics.

There are a ton of candidates seeking our endorsement. Only a handful of them are members of DSA. These candidates should be the ones you think most honestly about voting to endorse. Ask them about how they'll build the organization, how they'll be accountable to us, what they'll do for building people power.

There are a couple of candidates with existing campaigns who have just recently asked for our endorsement who are not members. We should ask these people: Are you a socialist? Will you openly run as a socialist? What will you do to build democratic socialism if elected?

There are a handful of candidates who are not members and who, frankly, appear to have only a Facebook page as their campaign apparatus. We should ask these candidates: Why are you running? Why do you want our endorsement? Do you have a chance of winning?

What is happening in DSA right now is truly powerful and is starting to look like a credible threat to the capitalist consensus. It's too precious and too beautiful right now for us to fall into the trap of being flattered that everyone suddenly wants to be our best friend.

in solidarity,

[491]

Nic Raymond^{[492][33]}

"Democratic socialist"

A campaign staffer for Ilhan Omar told the crowd at a [493]Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America meeting. "She is proud to call herself a democratic socialist, she's very excited about this. So I hope you guys endorse us, too." [494][34]

Endorsing Ilhan Omar

[495]



[496]Isuru Herath endorsed Ilhan Omar.

Southside Pride endorsement

From [497]Ed Felien, founder of [498]Southside Pride:

The hardest choice in the August 14 Primary for people in South Minneapolis has to be the choice between State Representative Ilhan Omar and State Senator [499]Patricia Torres Ray for Congress in the 5th Congressional District.

Ilhan has national recognition as the first Somali representative in a State Legislature. She is endorsed by the DFL and Our Revolution. She supports abolishing ICE, is very progressive, and she brought home bacon for her district.

When Ellison was thinking about resigning as 5th District Congressperson a year ago, we supported Patricia for his seat:

“Five and a half years ago we ran a full-page photo of Senator [500]Patricia Torres Ray on the cover of Southside Pride. In 25 years of publishing we have published a full-page photo on our cover only that one time—when a brave Latina first-term legislator stood in front of the Cub Store on Lake Street supporting the cleaning staff on strike. She was the only elected official there.”

When Ilhan Omar ran against [501]Phyllis Kahn, the incumbent who had served 44 years in the legislature, [502]Patricia Torres Ray was the only elected official to endorse her.

Either of these two women would be a great choice for Congress. But we have to pick one.

I believe we have to trust and respect the leadership in the DFL and [503]Our Revolution and vote for Ilhan Omar for Congress.

But, we have to remember and respect the record and leadership of [504]Patricia Torres Ray.^{[505][35]}

Justice Democrats

Ilhan Omar MN 05 was endorsed by [506]Justice Democrats for 2018.

NNU Endorses Ilhan Omar for Congress

August 09, 2018 [507]National Nurses United, the nation's largest union of registered nurses, today announced its endorsement of state legislator Ilhan Omar for U.S. Congress to represent Minnesota's 5th district.

"Ilhan Omar is a champion for economic and social justice and a fighter for all Minnesotans," said [508]Jean Ross, RN and Co-President of [509]National Nurses United, which represents over 150,000 RNs across the United States. "Ilhan understands the health care crisis in this country and the urgency in moving to a single payer, Medicare for All healthcare system that guarantees health care for everyone in this country, and that's an important reason why registered nurses are behind her 100 %."

"Ilhan is campaigning for economic justice for working families, environmental justice so we have clean air and water and save the planet from climate catastrophe, and reforming our criminal justice system- all issues of importance to our members, the bedside nurses in our hospitals and clinics, who are advocates for our patients and our communities," Ross continued. "Minnesota nurses support State Rep. Omar for her strong record in the Minnesota legislature of advocating for workers' rights and the rights of everyone in our communities," added [510]Mary Turner, RN, President of the [511]Minnesota Nurses Association, NNU's affiliate in Minnesota. "We are excited to support Ilhan who shares nurses' values of caring, compassion and community."

"I'm proud to have earned this endorsement," Omar said. "Nurses are America's most trusted profession. I'm proud to have stood with Minnesota nurses on the picket lines and in the fight for better protections. Nurses organize with compassion and that's the type of politics we need."

"Our campaign has been endorsed by the DFL, unions, elected officials across the district, progressive organizations and on Tuesday we would be honored to earn the endorsement of the Congressional District 5 residents," Omar continued.[512][36]

"Green New Deal"

From the [513]Sunrise Movement:[514][37]

[515]



[516]Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has released a proposal for a Select Committee on a [517]Green New Deal, a plan that would transform our economy and society at the scale needed to stop

- **[520]Jared Huffman (CA-02)**
- **[521]Jackie Speier (CA-14)**
- **[522]Ro Khanna (CA-17)**
- **[523]Mike Levin (CA-49)**
- **[524]Ted Lieu (CA-33)**
- **[525]John Lewis (GA-05)**
- **[526]Joe Neguse (CO-02)**
- **[527]Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02)**
- **[528]Chellie Pingree (ME-01)**
- **[529]Jamie Raskin (MD-08)**
- **[530]Ayanna Pressley (MA-07)**
- **[531]Rashida Tlaib (MI-13)**
- **Ilhan Omar (MN-05)**
- **[532]Deb Haaland (NM-01)**
- **[533]Carolyn Maloney (NY-12)**
- **[534]Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14)**
- **[535]Jose Serrano (NY-15)**
- **[536]Earl Blumenauer (OR-03)**

Sunrise slate 2018

[537]Sunrise Movement August 2 2018:

We're thrilled to introduce you to our first-ever round of candidate endorsements: the #SunriseSlate2018!

[538]



These candidates are some of the earliest adopters of the #NoFossilFuelMoney pledge and, if elected, would lead the fight against oil and gas lobbyists in state capitols and Washington, DC. They're putting forward big policy solutions to the climate crisis, like championing a [539]Green New Deal and supporting a just and rapid transition to a 100 % renewable energy future that leaves no community behind.

Learn more and support our efforts here! [540][https://www.sunrisemovement.org/2018-](https://www.sunrisemovement.org/2018-endorsed-candidates)

endorsed-candidates — with [541]Katie Muth for PA Senate, [542]Deb Haaland for Congress, [543]Alessandra Biaggi, [544]Kaniela Ing, [545]Jess King for Congress, [546]Julia Salazar for State Senate, [547]Dana Hamp Gulick for PA 97th, [548]Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Representative [549]Anna V. Eskamani, [550]Abdul El-Sayed, [551]Danielle Friel Otten for PA District 155, [552]Cynthia Nixon for New York, [553]Benjamin Jealous, [554]Jumaane D. Williams, Ilhan Omar for Congress, [555]Randy Bryce, [556]Zellnor Myrie for New York and [557]Rashida Tlaib For Congress, [558]Penelope Tsernoglou Michigan State House, [559]Michele Wherley

Pennsylvania State House. .

DSA comrades

[560]Winnie Wong January 3:

[561]



Signatories by February 15 deadline included [573]Ro Khanna, [574]Pramila Jayapal, [575]Mark Pocan, [576]Raul Grijalva, Ilhan Omar, [577]Hank Johnson, [578]Adriano Espaillat, [579]Rashida Tlaib, [580]Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, [581]Ayanna Pressley, [582]Nydia Velazquez.[583][38]
Condemning Venezuela policy

Three members of the US Congress, California Rep. [584]Ro Khanna, Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar and Hawaii Rep. [585]Tulsi Gabbard, condemned the U.S. actions in Venezuela, the recognition of Guaidó, a \$20 million aid package to the Venezuelan opposition, and the threat of further action, including military.[586][39]

Twin Cities DSA solidarity

[587]Twin Cities Democratic Socialists of America February 11 at 4:19 PM. [588]



We stand with Ilhan Omar against the reactionary smears being thrown at her. Conflating criticism of the Israeli state and its brutal regime with anti-Semitism is a neoconservative con that we refuse to fall for.

Less than two weeks ago, the United States Senate unceremoniously voted 74-19 to curtail civil liberties and free speech by opening the door for local governments to punish supporters of the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions movement. And in last week's State of the Union speech, president Trump gave lip service to the slain members of the Tree of Life Synagogue shortly after a cruel, paranoid lie about the 'violence' Americans face from people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border- the same conspiracy theory that drove that very act of hate in Pittsburgh.

It's our duty as socialists to oppose all forms of racism, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism and stand in solidarity with the oppressed workers of the entire globe. It's also our duty to stand strong against those who would divide us through opportunistic attacks and falsehoods.

DSA-JSC in Solidarity with Ilhan Omar

[589]Jewish Solidarity Caucus 2019, Feb 14.

As Jews on the left, we are in solidarity with Representative Ilhan Omar and her statements regarding the [590]American Israel Public Affairs Committee's ([591]AIPAC) influence over US lawmakers and foreign policy.

Israel is often referred to as the United States's primary ally in the Middle East, as it plays a central role in maintaining US military and economic hegemony over the region. While AIPAC is not the main reason for the US's "special relationship" with Israel, it provides lawmakers with political cover, model legislation, talking points, and donations from its supporters to ensure this relationship continues. AIPAC is not an exclusively Jewish lobby, hosting a growing Evangelical Christian membership as American Jewish support for its policies wanes. There is nothing antisemitic about pointing out AIPAC's influence. Indeed, Rep. Omar's comments are arguably an understatement, considering the scale of AIPAC's role in promoting Israeli apartheid and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians...

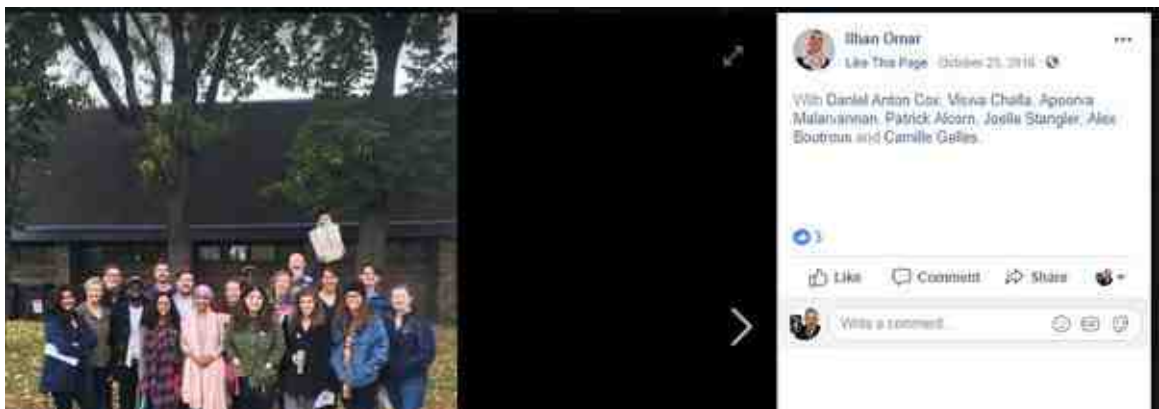
As Jews and as socialists, we must condemn the conflation of Jews and Israel as part of our broader struggle against anti-semitism and all forms of oppression, including the oppression of Palestinians. It stands in the way of building working class solidarity and the mass socialist movement we need to defeat the forces of capitalism, patriarchy, and white supremacy, which oppress and exploit us all. #IStandWithIlhan against AIPAC and with working class Muslim and Jewish people around the world.

Signed, [592]Jewish Solidarity Caucus Derrick Crowe connection [593]



Ilhan Omar with [594]Derrick Crowe, April 2019.
Socialist team member

[595]Jillia Pessenda was a leader in the successful legislative campaign of Ilhan Omar.
Ilhan Omar October 23, 2016:
[596]



With [597]Daniel Anton Cox, [598]Viswa Challa, [599]Apoorva Malarvannan, [600]Patrick Alcorn, [601]Joelle Stangler, [602]Alex Boutros and [603]Camille Galles.
DUH winning candidates 2018

[604]DUH - Demand Universal Healthcare winning candidates 2018.
[605]



- **Ilhan Omar - opening remarks**
- **[634]Marc Lamont Hill - moderator**
- **Poetry by: [635]Naomi Shihab Nye**
- **[636]Khury Petersen-Smith - [637]Institute for Policy Studies**
- **[638]Sanyoka Kindness - [639]Indigenous Environmental Network**
- **[640]Ash-Lee Henderson - [641]Highlander Research and Education Center**
- **[642]Melody McCurtis - [643]Metcalf Park Community Bridges**
- **[644]Munira Alimire - [645]Dissenters**
- **[646]Mahnker Dahnweih - [647]Freedom, Inc.**
- **[648]Krystal Two Bulls - [649]Voices of the Sacred**
- **[650]Hoda Katebi**
- **[651]Kitzia Esteva - [652]Causa Justa/Just Cause**
- **[653]Brittany DeBarros - About Face:Veterans Against the War]]**
- **[654]Reece Chenault - [655]Justice Before Peace**
- **[656]Hyun Lee - [657]Women Cross DMZ**
- **[658]Ramah Kudaimi - [659]War Resisters League**
- **[660]Barbara Ransby - [661]The Rising Majority**

Black Women in Defense of Ilhan Omar

[662]Black Women in Defense of Ilhan Omar was organized by [663]Movement for Black Lives to defend Rep. Ilhan Omar.

'Hands off Ilhan': Black Women in Solidarity with Ilhan Omar



Ilhan Omar, Angela Davis, Ayanna Pressley, and Rashida Tlaib at an event organized in defense of Ilhan Omar. | Photo: Facebook / Angela Davis

[664]

Dozens of women from the [665]Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of African-American advocates, gathered April 30 2019 in support of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar who has been a target of hate-speech and trolling by right-wing politicians and their supporters.

The women gathered in front of Washington's Capitol building chanting, "We love you" to Omar in the event named "Black Women in Defense of Ilhan Omar."

"The thing that upsets the occupant of the White House, his goons in the Republican Party (and) many of our colleagues in the Democratic Party," Omar told the crowd, "is that they can't stand that a refugee, a black woman, an immigrant, a Muslim, shows up in Congress thinking she's equal to them."

[666]Miski Noor told Middle East Eye that Omar is facing such criticisms because of her identity. She is a Muslim woman and was a Somali refugee when she arrived in the U.S.

"There are people, because of their white supremacist and racist views of the world, (who) hate her because of her identities and based on fear," she said.

"At the same time, we know Ilhan is being attacked because of the content of what she's saying," added Noor.

[667]Ayanna Pressley, Omar's fellow U.S. Congresswoman, shouted, "Hands off Ilhan," while criticizing politicians from her own Democratic Party, for failing to stand with the legislator. She added, "silencing of Black women" won't be acceptable anymore.

"This is a reckoning. This is us assuming our rightful place, as the table-shakers, as the truth-tellers, as the justice-seekers, as the preservers of democracy," said Pressley.

"We are demanding that you trust black women, that you see black women, that you believe black women and honor us for the role that we have played as healers and preservers of this democracy and this nation," emphasized Pressley.

Congresswoman [668]Rashida Tlaib also criticized the attempt of silencing Black women.

"They continue to police our words; they continue to police our positions," she said. "But I say 'hands off; hands off the women of color who serve in the United States Congress," Tlaib said.

Omar in her speech said that Islamophobia and anti-Jewish hatred are "two sides of the same coin of bigotry."

"The occupant of the White House and [his] allies are doing everything that they can to distance themselves ... from the monster that they've created that is terrorizing the Jewish community and the Muslim community," the Congresswoman said.

"We collectively must make sure that we are dismantling all systems of oppression," added Omar.[669][40]

"Black Women in Defense of Ilhan Omar"

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Activist [670]Angela Davis and Rep. [671]Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) joined numerous other black women activists and members of Congress in a rally Tuesday April 30 2019 rally to support Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.)

Hussam Ayloush connection

[765]Hussam Ayloush August 5 2018:

[766]



With [767]Yousuf Bhaghani, [768]Aleem Bilwani and [769]Mehdi Hirji in [770]Anaheim, [771]California.

Women for Political Change

Ilhan Omar December 8, 2015:

[772]



Ilhan met with [773]Women for Political Change tonight on the campus of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Students for Ilhan Omar

Students for Ilhan Omar November 6 2018:

With [774]Cassidy Drummond and [775]Jenny Howard, [776]Riley Fletcher, [777]Claire Anderson, [778]Sonia Neculescu, [779]Guillermo Perez Soberanes and [780]Payton West.

Epps-Addison connection

[781]Jennifer Epps-Addison November 16 2018:

[782]



The conference featured members of [822]Die Linke, an ally of Antifa that is the “direct descendant of the former East German Communist Party”. One of the speakers, [823]Manon Aubry, expressed excitement over the massive amounts of money being printed by the [824]Biden Administration. “I do believe that Biden’s significant move toward a progressive agenda - that has been forced by the left wing of the democrats - is a game changer for us,” she said during the discussion.”

Ilhan Omar’s comments transcribed:

“I wanted to thank you all for the invitation to meet today. I think we can all agree that with the rise of a very coordinated global right wing, it is critical for us to be gathering and forming a united internationalist front on the global left. Meetings like these are crucial to building these alliances. I’m honored to be here with you all today. I want to speak on some of the challenges I think we are collectively all facing to begin with the economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic are going to be enormous. And they are going to hit particularly hard in the [825]Global South.

I know some of my fellow panelists joined the letter that we sent with Senator [826]Sanders to the World Bank and the IMF [International Monetary Fund] last year asking for a debt cancellation and Special Drawing Rights. And I think we've made a little progress on that but we all need to keep pushing and not let our brothers and sisters in Africa, Asia and Latin America suffer disproportionately the economic impacts of the pandemic.

And as my colleague was just alluding to, it goes without saying that the biggest crisis in all - on all of our hands is the pending Climate Catastrophe. [827]Manon Aubry has been an incredible partner already in building a global coalition to push for a [828]Global Green New Deal. She understands that coordination on climate needs to be fully global in order to have an impact. So I look forward to the work that we do together moving legislation on our own countries that take this threat seriously. And just as importantly - you know I look forward to all of the other efforts we are going to be collaborating on that are really creating a crisis both in our countries here in the United States and in Europe as well.

It has been incredible in so many ways for us progressives to have built a massive movement that's allowed for essentially a very moderate president and his administration to take on a lot of the policies that we have been advocating for. And for us to do little to almost zero work in pushing on those main policies in regards to the economic - the economy, in regards to healthcare, and infrastructure. And now do the work of trying to get them to go a little farther in particular investments in regards to the amount of dollars that will be invested in these programs.

As we deliberate now in regards to legislation to invest on our infrastructure and job creation, it's gonna be really important for us to continue to lead and push for sustainable investments in regards to these projects. We have done many - now I think four recovery packages - the biggest one being the American Rescue Plan.

Most of us understood how important it was for us to go big and bold and create investments that allowed for many to go into the pockets of people so that they are able to sustain themselves during this pandemic and the economic crisis that came from it. But, you know, we all understand that the recovery investments that have been made in regards to the pandemic are all a crisis investment. They're not investments that are made in the long term.

Many of the programs that were funded in the community including one of my old legislations which helped to feed 22 million children are all just a year or two type of investment. Though what we are now looking at the investments going forward, is how to make these investments sustainable for ten years, for twenty years so we could actually see the impacts they will have on the lives of people.

I know that people have Bidenmania, but we here in the United States have Europemania. Many of us understand that there are programs that have been implemented in European countries that we use as a model for the things that we push for here in the United States. And so it is really important for us to both use each other as inspiration and opportunities to recognize the challenges that arise and collectively come up with ideas to address those challenges.

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1.2.16 Don't Vote for Joe Biden (2022-10-12 22:32)

1. **Joe Biden** (born November 20, 1942) is the current president, the former Vice President of the United States of America, elected on the ticket with [1]Barack Obama in November 2008. He was a United States Senator from [2]Delaware from January 3, 1973 until his resignation on January 15, 2009, following his election to the Vice Presidency.

See also: [3]Joe Biden 2020 presidential campaign

{[] _ {] }

Early Life

Biden was born in [4]Scranton, [5]Pennsylvania, the son of [6]Joseph Robinette Biden, Sr. (1915–2002) and [7]Catherine Eugenia Finnegan (1917–2010). He is the oldest of four siblings in an Irish Catholic family.

Education

Biden attended the Archmere Academy in Claymont. He attended the University of Delaware in Newark, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in history and political science in 1965. He went on to receive his Juris Doctor from Syracuse University College of Law in 1968.

Family

On August 27, 1966, while studying at Syracuse University, Biden married [8]Neilia Hunter. The couple had three children, [9]Beau (born 1969), [10]Robert (born 1970) and [11]Naomi (born 1971). On Dec. 18, 1972, a few weeks after his successful bid for the Delaware seat in the U.S. Senate, Biden's wife and one-year-old Naomi were killed in an automobile accident in Delaware.

On June 17, 1977, Biden married [12]Jill Jacobs. They have one daughter, [13]Ashley (born 1981).

The Bidens are Roman Catholics and regularly attend Mass at St. Joseph on the Brandywine in Greenville, Delaware.

Political career

After graduating from law school, he returned to Delaware to work as an attorney before quickly turning to politics, serving on the New Castle county council from 1970 to 1972. Biden was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972 at the age of 29, becoming the fifth youngest senator in history. He went on to win reelection six times and became Delaware's longest-serving senator. In addition to his role as U.S. senator, Biden also served as an adjunct professor at the Wilmington, Del., branch of the Widener University School of Law in 1991.

As a senator, Biden focused on foreign relations, criminal justice, and drug policy. He served on the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, twice as its chair (2001–03; 2007–09), and on the Committee on the Judiciary, serving as its chair from 1987 to 1995. He was particularly outspoken on issues related to the Kosovo conflict of the late '90s, urging U.S. action against Serbian forces to protect Kosovars against an offensive by Serbian Pres. Slobodan Miloševi. On the Iraq War, Biden proposed a partition plan as a way to maintain a united, peaceful Iraq. Biden also was a member of the International Narcotics Control

Caucus and was the lead senator in writing the law that established the office of “drug czar,” a position that oversees the national drug-control policy.^{[14][1]}

Soviet trip

In 1979, on one of his first trips to the Soviet Union, Biden listened to an argument from his Soviet counterpart, and replied, “Where I come from, we have a saying: You can’t shit a shitter.” [15] Bill Bradley, then a fellow-senator on the delegation, later asked the American interpreter how he had translated Biden’s comment into Russian. “Not literally,” the interpreter said.^{[16][2]}

Soviet negotiations



Senator Joseph Biden (second from left) of Delaware, Member of the Senate's the Foreign Relations Committee and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Presidium Andrei Gromyko (second from right) during the negotiations in the Kremlin.

[17]



[18]

Attitude to Soviet dissidents

[19] Vadim Zagladin, was deputy chief of the [20] Communist Party of the Soviet Union’s Central Committee’s International Department until 1987 and then Mikhail Gorbachev’s advisor until 1991. Zagladin was both envoy and spy, charged with gathering secrets, spreading disinformation, and advancing Soviet influence.

Zagladin’s wrote this of his dealings with Senators Joe Biden, and [21] Richard Lugar in 1979?

Unofficially, [Senator Joseph] Biden and [Senator Richard] Lugar said that, in the end of the day, they were not so much concerned with having a problem of this or that citizen solved as with showing to the American public that they do care for “human rights.” . .

. In other words, the collocutors directly admitted that what is happening is a kind of a show, that they absolutely do not care for the fate of most so-called dissidents.^{[22][3]}

Poor peoples Campaign



[23]

Gerry Adams connection



[24]

Taken three years ago, this picture shows Biden, beaming with pleasure, alongside former Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams and with his arm around former fugitive Rita O'Hare

Joe Biden with [25]Gerry Adams and [26]Rita O'Hare.

"Friends of Ireland"

March 16 1981, twenty-four American political figures, most of them of Irish ancestry, urged an end to *the fear and the terrorism and the bigotry* in Northern Ireland and proposed that the Reagan Administration find a way to promote a peaceful settlement of the Ulster conflict.

In a joint St. Patrick's Day statement, the 24 - including Governor Carey, Governor Byrne, Senator [27]Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York and Senator [28]Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts -announced the creation of an organization seeking to *facilitate greater understanding of the positive role America can play resolving this tragic conflict*.

They stressed that the organization, known as the [29]Friends of Ireland, will seek the unification of the six counties of Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic but that *the goal can be reached only with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, and with full safeguards for the rights of both sections of the community*.

It was the fourth consecutive year that the group had issued a statement on St. Patrick's Day calling for an end to violence in Ulster, but it was the first time it had sought to define a role for the United States. The group was set up to counter a vocal lobby for the [30]Irish Republican Army.

Two-thirds of the people of Northern Ireland are Protestants, while the Irish Republic is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic. Efforts to resolve the violent conflict between Protestants and Catholics, and work out a settlement aimed at erasing the border, have been thwarted by terrorists on both sides.

The statement urged the Administration to play a *constructive role* in Northern Ireland and ~~and~~ support a policy *that helps bring terrorism to an end, that demands respect for the human rights of all the people of Northern Ireland, that recognizes the legitimate aspirations of both the Protestant and Catholic communities, and that strengthens the ties between two of America's*

PES connection

The [65]Party of European Socialists dialogue with the US Democrats and the Transatlantic partnership "was a priority over the last years" (written in 2009).

Delegations, meetings and exchanges of information were held on a regular basis.

PES President [66]Poul Nyrup Rasmussen attended Inauguration Day, on 20 January 2009 in Washington D.C., with the Oaths of Office to President-elect [67]Barack Obama and to Vice President-elect Joe Biden.^{[68][7]}

Progressive Governance Summit

[69]



Joe Biden, [70]Michelle Bachelet

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden was in Chile. April 2009, to attend a summit of leaders from Latin America and Europe.

Biden flew to Chile early Friday and went to the resort city of Vina del Mar, where the [71]Progressive Governance Summit would take place on Saturday.

Biden's three-day visit included bilateral talks with Chilean President [72]Michelle Bachelet and other visiting leaders.

Also attending the summit were British Prime Minister [73]Gordon Brown, Spanish President [74]Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, Brazilian President [75]Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva and Argentine President [76]Cristina Fernandez.^{[77][8]}

[78]Rudy deLeon, senior vice president for national security programs at the [79]Center for American Progress, also attended.^{[80][9]}

Also there were [81]Simon Rosenberg, ([82]New Democratic Network), [83]James Purnell (UK secretary of state for work and pensions), [84]Francesco Rutelli, [85]Mona Sahlin (Sweden) is leader of the Swedish Social Democratic Party), [86]Nick Rowley (Kinesis), [87]Robert Reich, [88]Frans Timmermans (Netherlands) is Dutch minister for European affairs and member of parliament for the LaborParty).

PES visit

From 21-25 June 2010, a high level [89]Party of European Socialists delegation headed by [90]Poul Nyrup Rasmussen travelled to Canada for the [91]International Trade Union Confederation Congress in Vancouver and the G20 summit. The delegation presented the PES "A Progressive way out of the Crisis" strategy, which aims to impose strict financial regulation and fostered support for a global financial transactions tax (FTT) of 0.05 %.

In Vancouver, Mr. Rasmussen met with [92]Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Director General of the IMF, [93]Pascal Lamy Director General of the WTO, [94]Helen Clark of the UNDP and [95]Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO. He also met with NDP Member of Parliament [96]Peter Julian, to discuss the FTT and with the President of the Canadian Labour Congress [97]Ken Gormett.

So far, we at the Council are optimistic about the selection of many of Biden's Cabinet picks whose focuses overlap with ours, including Secretary of State nominee [129]Antony Blinken, Climate Change Envoy appointee [130]John Kerry, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations nominee [131]Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Director of National Intelligence nominee [132]Avril Haines, National Security Advisor appointee [133]Jake Sullivan, Secretary of Defense nominee [134]Lloyd Austin and Secretary of Energy nominee [135]Jennifer Granholm. We know that not everyone is thrilled about every pick, but we remain confident that the Biden administration will work to reduce nuclear threats, restore morale and purpose at the State Department after four years of damage, and try to rein in out-of-control defense spending.

Meanwhile, while our team continues to focus primarily on Congressional work, we have met with various members of the Biden transition team to provide our expert analysis and insight on the most critical national security issues we'll face over the next four years.^{[136][14]}

CLW appointments Biden Administration

Though we are sad to see them go, the [137]Center and [138]Council are proud of the board members and staff that have joined the Biden administration. Most critically, [139]Alexandra Bell has left her position as Senior Policy Director after being appointed as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance.

[140]Mallory Stewart and [141]Spencer Boyer left the Center Board of Directors to fulfill their respective roles of Senior Director for Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation on the National Security Council; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe and NATO Policy. From the Center's Szilard Advisory Board, [142]Anthony Wier has left to become Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation; [143]Colin Kahl to become Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; and [144]Ned Price to become Department of State Spokesperson.

[145]Bishop Garrison has left the Council Board of Directors following his appointment to Senior Adviser to the Secretary of Defense for Human Capital and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Immediate Office of the Secretary, a new position within the department.

These appointments are tremendous wins for our country and every person who believes a world free from nuclear threats is possible. We look forward to the great work they will do under the new administration and wish them all the best of luck.^{[146][15]}

Endorsed Biden for President

[147]



In 2020 the [148]Council for a Livable World endorsed Joe Biden for President.

Early support

The [149]Council for a Livable World, founded in 1962 by long-time socialist activist and alleged Soviet agent, [150]Leo Szilard, is a non-profit advocacy organization that seeks to "reduce the danger of nuclear weapons and increase national security", primarily through supporting progressive, congressional candidates who support their policies. The Council supported Joe Biden in his successful Senate run as candidate for Delaware.^{[151][16]}

Council for a Livable World has a history of helping to elect new candidates who can make a difference in the Senate, such as a little-known state senator from Illinois named [152]Barack Obama and a 29-year old Joe Biden in his first statewide contest.^{[153][17]}

Council for a Livable World, 50th Anniversary

On June 6, 2012, [154]Council for a Livable World, along with its sister organizations [155]Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation and Council for a Livable World's PeacePAC, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their founding by [156]Leo Szilard in 1962.

An evening celebration was held at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Congressman [157]Barney Frank acted as the Master of Ceremonies and, in the process, received a lifetime achievement award from former Rep. [158]Tom Downey, a member of the Council's Board of Directors. The Robert F. Drinan Peace and Human Award was presented to former Representative and PeacePAC Chairman [159]David Bonior and the late [160]Edith Wilkie, a longtime advocate and leader for peace and justice.

Videos were shown in which Vice President Joe Biden and Massachusetts Senate candidate [161]Elizabeth Warren celebrated the organization's 50 years although they were not able to attend in person.[162][18]

CLW and Joe Biden: The Early Years

According to [163]Sonia Sloan;

I'd like to share with you the role that the Council for a Livable World played in the election of Joe Biden to the United States Senate in 1972.

I had Co-Chaired the [164]Eugene McCarthy campaign in Delaware in 1968. In 1970, a young man named Joe Biden decided to run for a seat on the New Castle County Council. I worked on that campaign and Joe Biden won - in a year that the Democrats did not do well at all. In fact, Joe's Council seat was the highest office we won throughout the State that year.

Our Democratic State Chairman appointed the Democratic Renewal Commission to try and find out what happened and why the Party had done so poorly in that election. Former Governor [165]Elbert Carvel was the Chairman of the Commission and I was the Secretary and members of the Commission included the newly elected Council member, Joe Biden, and other prominent Democrats. We spent nine months traveling up and down the State, talking to Democrats in all the cities and little towns, finding out about their concerns and what they wanted and expected from the candidates and their leaders.

I learned during those many months how bright, intelligent, and committed Joe Biden was - and how he cared so deeply about the people of this State.

One evening, when the Commission's work was done, Joe asked me to meet with him. He told me he wanted to run for the United States Senate against the incumbent [166]Cale Boggs. Boggs had been Governor, Congressman and then Senator. I remember telling Joe "you're crazy - nobody wants to run against him - it is an uphill battle". Joe's reply was "I am going to do it- will you help me?" And of course I said yes.

Shortly after Joe started his campaign, I got a call from a gentleman at the Council for a Livable World. I assumed that he called me because of the McCarthy campaign and my involvement as a Vice President of the National New Democratic Coalition. He told me this young candidate for the U.S. Senate had come to the Council for a contribution for his campaign . I was asked if I knew Joe Biden and what I thought of him. I was, of course, delighted to be able to say that I knew him well and to give Joe a ringing endorsement. As a result, the Council gave Joe Biden his first major endorsement and campaign contribution.

Joe and I have talked about this over the years and I thought the Council for a Livable World might like to know that an important role it played in helping to start Joe on his political career – culminating today in his nomination for Vice President on the Democratic ticket.^{[167][19]}

Albert Gore, Sr. connection

When Joe Biden started running for a Senate seat in 1972, few people thought the young man from [168]Delaware had a chance.

But a well-placed Tennessee couple tagged him early as an up-and-comer.

"I was 29 years old, running for the United States Senate against a guy with an 81 percent favorable rating, a year where Richard Nixon won my state by over 65 percent of the vote, and I was an Irish Catholic in a state that (had) never elected one," Biden told Tennessee Democrats in a speech 2010, recounting a story that got scant media attention at the time.

Biden pulled off a stunning, 3,162-vote upset with a mix of youthful vigor, skillful campaigning, energized volunteers and smart advertising — fueled by tens of thousands of dollars that a prominent Tennessee couple raised for his campaign.

His candidacy caught the eye of former Tennessee Sen. [169]Albert Gore, Sr., who was working with a Washington, D.C.-based arms control group called the Council for a Livable World, and his wife, Pauline.

Though the numbers look quaint by today's seven- and eight-figure standards for Senate campaigns, the Gores raised a substantial \$89,000, Biden said at the Tennessee Democratic Party's Jackson Day dinner in 2010. That was nearly one-third of the \$287,000 he brought in overall.

[170]Ted Kaufman, who volunteered for Biden's campaign, said the Gores' support was critical. Kaufman later served as Biden's chief of staff for 19 years and briefly succeeded him in the Senate in 2009 and 2010, after President [171]Barack Obama took office with Biden as his deputy.

Boggs, the incumbent senator 40 years ago, was "one of the most popular and beloved figures in Delaware history," Kaufman said in a phone interview. No one on the national political scene thought Biden, who "was 29 years old and looked 29 years old," had a chance until [172]Albert Gore, Sr., who had lost a re-election bid in 1970, sent out a letter to the [173]Council for a Livable World's supporters, urging them to "take a hard look at the Delaware race," Kaufman recalled.

"It gave (Biden) credibility in Washington," he said. "It also attracted people to come and help on the race."

Gore "thought he could win. Clearly he endorsed Biden's views, but the key thing that came out of it was telling people he had a chance to win. That was what made it so special."

On June 21, 1971, The Nashville Banner reported that Gore, six months removed from the Senate, would become the Washington chairman of the [174]Council for a Livable World, which advocates for decreasing the threat of nuclear weapons. Founded in 1962, the council also works to help like-minded candidates win Senate and House seats.

Gore "expects to spend much time in the next 18 months traveling across the country in behalf of 1972 Senate candidates for which the council is raising campaign money," the Banner reported in a short story.

Nashville civil rights attorney [175]George Barrett, who practiced law with both Albert and [176]Pauline Gore in the early 1970s, said the couple saw in Biden "a progressive, bright, hard-working young man."

"Albert was very perceptive politically, and Pauline even more so," Barrett said.

Former U.S. Sen. [177]Jim Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat who joined Biden in the Senate in 1976, said Albert Gore saw a familiar spark in the Delaware candidate.

"Sen. Gore developed a real attachment to Biden, because he said Biden reminded him very much of himself when he was a young man trying to get started in electoral politics and coming up through the ranks," Sasser said from Washington. "He said Biden was very self-assured, a little brash."

The Obama campaign said Biden was unavailable for an interview. But he spent almost three minutes talking about the impact of the Gores, who are both deceased, during his 2010 speech in Nashville. He called himself "a product of Al Gore Sr."

*318
"Here's the deal: I was desperately trying to raise money," the vice president said. "I got a call from a woman named [178]Pauline Gore. Would I come down to Washington and meet with (her) and Senator Gore and some ... concerned scientists who wanted to talk about the spread*

Anti anti-Soviet

Throughout the 1980s, Biden opposed President Ronald Reagan's proactive means of dealing with the Soviet Union. Biden instead favored détente – which, in practice, meant Western subsidies that would have enabled the moribund USSR to remain solvent much longer than it ultimately did. He also opposed Reagan's effort to fund the Contras, an anti-Communist rebel group in Nicaragua.^{[193][23]}

Anti-Defense

In 2008, [194]Pete Wehner wrote in the Wall Street Journal:

"Throughout his career, Mr. Biden has consistently opposed modernization of our strategic nuclear forces. He was a fierce opponent of Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. Mr. Biden voted against funding SDI, saying [as noted above], 'The president's continued adherence to [SDI] constitutes one of the most reckless and irresponsible acts in the history of modern statecraft.' Mr. Biden has remained a consistent critic of missile defense and even opposed the U.S. dropping out of the Antiballistic Missile Treaty after the collapse of the Soviet Union (which was the co-signatory to the ABM Treaty) and the end of the Cold War."^{[195][24]}

Security advisors

Biden's national-security adviser, [196]Antony J. Blinken, and two other aides are also directors in the National Security Council, while a number of former Biden aides occupy important posts in the N.S.C. [197]Thomas Donilon, deputy national-security adviser and coordinator of policy across agencies, has been a close friend of Biden's since the 1980s; Donilon's brother, [198]Michael Donilon, is a senior adviser to Biden, and Donilon's wife, [199]Catherine Russell, was Biden's former administrative assistant and is now chief of staff to Biden's wife, Jill. [200][25]

Higher office

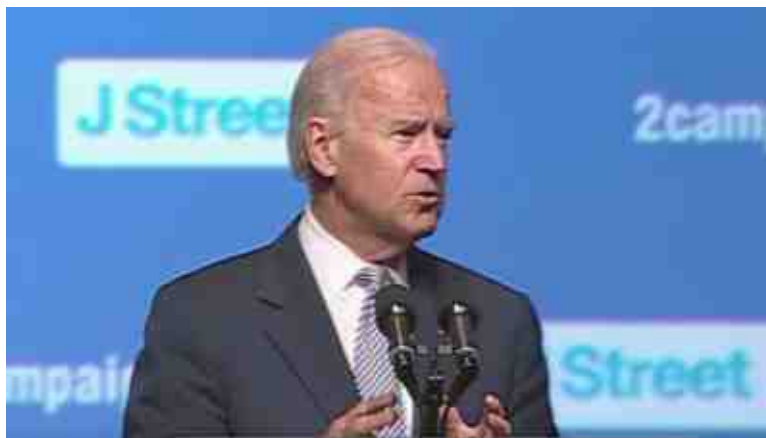
Biden pursued the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination but withdrew after it was revealed that parts of his campaign stump speech had been plagiarized from British Labour Party leader [201]Neil Kinnock without appropriate attribution. His 2008 presidential campaign never gained momentum, and he withdrew from the race after placing fifth in the Iowa Democratic caucus in January of that year.

After [202]Barack Obama amassed enough delegates to secure the Democratic presidential nomination, Biden emerged as a front-runner to be Obama's vice presidential running mate. On August 23 Obama officially announced his selection of Biden as the Democratic Party's vice presidential nominee, and on August 27 Obama and Biden secured the Democratic Party's nomination. On November 4 the Obama-Biden ticket defeated John McCain and his running mate, Sarah Palin, and Biden also easily won reelection to his U.S. Senate seat. He resigned from the Senate post shortly before taking the oath of office as vice president on Jan. 20,

2009.[203][26]

J Street

[204]



The national [205]J Street group, aims to "redefine what it means to be pro-Israel" and marshal American support for a two-state solution, said J Street Director of Media and Communications [206]Jessica Rosenblum. The organization says the details of the negotiation should be worked out between Israel and Palestine, but Rosenblum said the organization believes a two-state agreement would likely create a border between the two states mostly based on land divisions before the 1967 Six-Day War.

320
At the October 2013 conference, titled "Our Time to Lead," students attended panels and lectures with experts, non-governmental organization advocates and Israeli, Palestinian and

That list includes [290]Housang Amirahmadi, the founder of the [291]American Iranian Council, who had spoken of a campaign to “conquer Obama’s heart and mind” and had described himself as “the Iranian lobby in the United States.” It includes the [292]Iranian Muslim Association of North America (IMAN) board members who had fundraised for Biden. And it includes the aforementioned [293]Hassan Nemazee.

A member of Iran’s opposition had accused Biden’s campaigns of being “financed by Islamic charities of the Iranian regime based in California and by the Silicon Iran network.” Biden’s affinity for the terrorist regime in Tehran was so extreme that after 9/11 he had suggested, “Seems to me this would be a good time to send, no strings attached, a check for \$200 million to Iran”.

Questions about donations from the Iran Lobby had haunted [294]John Kerry’s presidential campaign. Back then Kerry had been accused of supporting an agreement favorable to Iran. The parameters of that controversial proposal however were less generous than the one that Obama and Kerry are trying to sell now.

The hypothetical debates over the influence of the Iran Lobby have come to a very real conclusion.

Both of Obama's secretaries of state were involved in Iran Lobby cash controversies, as was his vice president and his former secretary of defense. [295]Barack Obama was also the beneficiary of sizable donations from the Iran Lobby. [296]Akbar Ghahary, the former co-founder of IAPAC, had donated and raised some \$50,000 for Obama.^{[297][31]}

NIAC praise

July 16 2019 Washington DC – Moments ago, Reps. [298]Barbara Lee, [299]Jan Schakowsky, and [300]David Price introduced a resolution calling for the [301]United States to return to compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), or Iran deal, from which President Trump withdrew in May 2018.

In response, NIAC President [302]Jamal Abdi issued the following statement:

"[303]Donald Trump's decision to abandon the Iran nuclear deal has put the U.S. on the brink of war with Iran and threatened to undo the hard won constraints against Iran's nuclear program. Thankfully, many Members of Congress recognize that there is no military solution to the present crisis, and that the best way to de-escalate is for the U.S. to return to compliance with the nuclear deal. Representatives Lee, Schakowsky and Price should be commended for their years of leadership in advancing peace and diplomacy, including by introducing this important resolution.

"NIAC strongly supports a U.S. return to its JCPOA commitments and first issued a white paper in support of such a move last November. We proudly supported the DNC's adoption of a resolution committing to return the U.S. to its JCPOA commitments. And we advocated for and welcome the strong majority of Democratic Presidential contenders who have also committed to returning to our diplomatic obligations — including [304]Warren, [305]Sanders, [306]Harris, [307]Buttigieg, Biden, [308]Gabbard, and [309]O'Rourke.

Ukraine connection

In 2014, Vice President Joe Biden's son, [310]Hunter Biden, was appointed to the board of directors of Burisma Holdings, a privately-owned natural gas company operating in the Ukraine since the year 2002. Burisma Holdings has become a considerable player within the Ukrainian natural gas and oil industry, with licences covering the Dnieper-Donets, Carpathian and Azov-Kuban basins. The production capability has reached over 10,500 barrels of oil equivalent per day (BOEPD) which has left the company with considerable reserves.^{[311][32]}

White House Summit on Worker Voice

At the [312]White House Summit on Worker Voice October 2015 President [313]Barack Obama declared: "If you're not at the table, you are on the menu."

He was quoting [314]Lee Saunders, president of the [315]American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, one of many top union leaders attending the day-long session. Also participating were organizers of low wage workers, researchers, academics, several business leaders, Vice President Joe Biden, Senator [316]Al Franken, D.-Minn., and Representatives [317]Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif, [318]Gregory Meeks, D.-N.Y., and [319]Frederica Wilson, D.-Fla.

Obama acknowledged that workers' rights have been weakened by anti-union laws and policies, but throughout the Summit he repeated his opinion that the main culprit has been "the combination of globalization and automation" that allows corporations "to do more with less."

(a)

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1.2.17 Don't Vote for Angie Craig (2022-10-12 22:36)

Angie Craig is married to [1]Cheryl Greene.

{[] _ {] }

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Population Connection Donation

Angie Craig received a donation from the [12]Population Connection in 2020.^{[13][1]}

Support from Onward Together

[14]Onward Together supported **Angie Craig** as a candidate for the 2018 midterm elections.^{[15][2]}

Background

Craig graduated from the University of Memphis. After her education, she worked as a journalist and then at two companies. Most recently she worked for a Fortune 500 healthcare company, St. Jude Medical, based in St. Paul. Craig's work has involved health policy, media and government relations, and corporate communications. She has led St. Jude's Global Human Resources group since 2011, helping create jobs and building a program designed to bring more women into management roles.

Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus

The formation of the [16]Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus was announced on June 4, 2008, by openly gay representatives [17]Tammy Baldwin and [18]Barney Frank.

The caucus had 165 members (164 Democrats and 1 Republican) in the 116th United States Congress. The caucus is co-chaired by the United States House of Representatives' nine openly LGBT members:

Representatives [19]David Cicilline, Angie Craig, [20]Sharice Davids, [21]Mondaire Jones, [22]Sean Patrick Maloney, [23]Chris Pappas, [24]Mark Pocan, [25]Mark Takano, and [26]Ritchie Torres.

Congressional Progressive Caucus PAC

In 2018 [27]Congressional Progressive Caucus PAC (CPC PAC), the political arm of the 76-member Congressional Progressive Caucus, endorsed Angie Craig (MN-02) for the House of Representatives.[28][3]

Congressional Progressive Caucus

Shortly after the 2018 election **Angie Craig** joined the [29]Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Council for a Livable World

In 2018 **Angie Craig** was endorsed by [30]Council for a Livable World.[31][4]

Vote Common Good 2018 endorsements

[32]Vote Common Good 2018 endorsements included **Angie Craig**.

[33]



Staff

Jan. 3 2019, including [34]Mara Kunin as Chief of Staff, [35]Will Mitchell as Legislative Director, [36]Nick Coe as District Director and [37]Jen Gates as Communications Director.

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1.2.18 The American Stasi State (2022-10-17 23:15)

I do not take the topic of this week's missive lightly, and it comes from experience. Back in the mid-80s, I was a young Army

Paratrooper Lieutenant assigned to the 325th Airborne Battalion Combat Team in Vicenza, Italy. Each January-February, we did training exchange rotations with the famed Berlin Brigade. They would come down to Folgaria, Italy, and participate in our cold-weather mountain warfare training course. We would deploy to take advantage of their MOUT (military operations in urban terrain) facility. While in West Berlin, by agreement, members of our military could travel into East Berlin through Checkpoint Charlie.

I remember receiving the safety brief about being situationally aware of the East German secret police, known as the Stasi. They would be shadowing us and ensuring there was no conversational contact with East Germans, beyond purchasing goods. The Stasi was part of a brutal regime that imprisoned its political opposition; many of whom were never to be heard from again. What I witnessed as a young 24-year-old Army officer was something I never wanted my country to experience.

Sadly, what I did see then has now infiltrated our country. When Joe Biden stands before an ominous and extremely dark backdrop to castigate millions of Americans as extremists, fascists, threats, and enemies, we have crossed an extremely dangerous Rubicon. This is the mantra of the real fascists, socialists, Marxists, and yes, communists, to disparage their political opposition, dehumanizing them, and setting them up for a “by any means necessary” agenda of suppression, silencing, and eradication.

America is becoming a Stasi state.

Over the past year, we have seen parents who resisted the indoctrination of their children be attacked. How interesting it is that the National Association of School Boards, of which many state school boards are members, wrote a letter to the U.S. Attorney General demanding that parents showing up at school board meetings be designated as domestic terrorists. And even in the Lone Star State of Texas, we had two dads arrested in their homes, before their families, at night, in Round Rock, Texas, all because they spoke up about transparency and

their disagreement with the current superintendent.



[1]

Democratic Party's Lenin Statue in Seattle, Washington

Recently, the American Medical Association sent a letter to the U.S. Attorney General. Their letter demanded that anyone, including journalists, who speaks out against child gender modification, mutilation, surgeries, puberty blockers, and hormonal therapies be investigated. So, in other words, a medical association, which we all know is quite leftist, does not want any speech against surgically mutilating young children. Based upon a video from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, it appears that this is a lucrative business. Matter of fact, Planned Parenthood has opened up a new line of business in child gender mutilation surgery. Take note that a gender mutilation surgery center in San Francisco sought to sponsor a drag event at a gay bar in San Diego for children.

Speaking of California, its state legislature just passed a law, which will surely be signed by Gov. Newsom, that will punish medical professionals spreading so-called Covid-19 "disinformation." Since when were elected officials smarter than medical professionals? The most severe punishment is the revocation of a medical license. The state

government is now interjecting itself into the doctor-patient relationship.

The U.S. Department of Justice just announced it will begin an investigation into Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter. Why not investigate Kroger acquiring Albertsons? Oh yeah, Twitter is an information platform that the leftists, and fascists, do not want to lose. I guess the world's richest man is not out of reach for the American Stasi state. And the same DOJ is opening an investigation on Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis for transporting 50 illegal immigrants to Martha's Vineyard...but no investigation into the Biden administration doing (which it still does) the very same thing all across the nation?

Indiana congressional candidate Jennifer Ruth-Green had her military personnel file illegally accessed and given to Politico for a hit piece that revealed her sexual assault while in Iraq. The U.S. Air Force has come out publicly and stated that it had no record of anyone requesting under FOIA to obtain her personnel file, which Politico said they did. Jennifer Ruth-Green is an Air Force Academy graduate, but sadly, she is a Black female conservative. To the American Stasi state, she is the enemy for being a black woman that is not a socialist or Marxist.

And so it goes when an 83-year-old pro-life volunteer, Joan Jacobson of Michigan, was shot because she believed in the very first unalienable right, life, for the unborn children of America. Or what about 80-year-old Julie Jaman of Port Townsend, Washington, who was banned from her YMCA for complaining about a gender dysphoric male staff member being in the women's locker room and heckled by the Stasi state brown shirts? Or how about the unfortunate story of 18-year-old North Dakota teenager, Cayler Ellingson, who was run down by a triggered Marxist believing the kid was a Republican extremist? None of these stories received any coverage from the American Stasi state media propaganda wing.

Americans deemed the political opponents of the Stasi state are being targeted and having their homes raided...yet not one single black-clad

and masked Antifa leader has been arrested. And even if they were, the Stasi state, meaning Kamala Harris and her ilk, will raise funds and advocate for their being released. And even in our nation's capital, a new Bastille has arisen, a place to unlawfully detain and hold Americans with their due process constitutional rights being violated.

This is all the result of constitutional conservatives, concerned parents, and those who believe they have a right to free speech, free expression, peaceably assemble, and petition their government for a redress of grievances being labeled as domestic terrorists, fascists, and the enemy. If you are burning down city blocks, attacking law enforcement, and entering the country illegally, that is permitted by the American Stasi state, along with releasing violent criminals back onto our streets.

The midterm elections will determine whether or not our constitutional republic survives or if the American Stasi state expands.

Who knows, perhaps one day, I will have the late-night banging upon my door because I dare to cower in fear, intimidated into silence, afraid for my family. Perhaps I will have my bank account suspended as have so many others. The funding of 87,000 new IRS agents is not in the interest of the American people. It is in the interest of the American Stasi state, to be weaponized against political opponents.

Unity for the progressive socialist leftists and Marxists means conformity...or else. I find it funny because during the Trump presidency, all we heard from the left was "Resist." Thanks, y'all, that is exactly what I plan to do...Steadfast and Loyal.

1. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/d6/Statue_of_Lenin_Seattle.jpg

1.2.19 Civilization Cannot Exist Without Righteous Retribution (2022-10-17 23:16)

The only thing about the fact that a jury found that the degenerate scumbag who murdered seventeen people should not be executed is that it was just one nimrod juror who held out not to give the vermin the death he deserves. Statistically, even in a red state like Florida, it's difficult to find a group of twelve people without a moral illiterate or two. In blue venues, it's hard to find any moral literates at all.

Here's the thing – a civilization that cannot come up with the moral testicularity to execute a creature who murders over a dozen of its children is a civilization in serious trouble. The minimum standard for any culture that intends on surviving – and surviving means dealing with the barbarians within and without – is to take its own side in the fight for survival. Eventually, there will be a backlash. The only question is how ugly it will be.

This injustice in the Sunshine State – appropriately deplored by Governor DeSantis – is a symptom of the larger problem. You see it manifested across our culture – suicidal tolerance and performative forgiveness. In places like Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and other blue cities – it is always blue cities – the inhabitants murder each other with glee. But more than that, they generally act like savages. We have all seen the videos. Random creeps menacing citizens on the subways, packs of thugs raiding convenience stores or shopping malls, pitched battles between groups of aspiring Einsteins in Walmarts, animals cold-cocking citizens who are simply minding their own business. But no one stops them. No one holds them to account. The cops' shrug, because the blue politicians have told them to stand down. The answer to those of us who protest is always the same – shut up, racist, and also give us your guns so that you cannot defend yourself from what the government refuses to suppress.

And then there is the spectacle of family members of murder victims “forgiving” the criminals as if forgiveness was a simple act and not a process that demands action by the person being forgiven. This bizarre misunderstanding of Christianity is mixed with what seems to be a desire to front to the world as somehow enlightened – “I want to announce that I forgive the barbarians who raped and murdered my daughter. They did not repent, they did not seek forgiveness, and they have not yet been punished, but I’ll do it now anyway. Look at me.” Not that you want to take theological hints from a guy who grew up a Californian Methodist, but the forgiveness of God does not just manifest out of the blue; the one receiving grace needs to take steps to obtain it. These moral posers – and it is posing, sad and horrifying, but posing nonetheless – demand nothing to obtain forgiveness, so the forgiveness they offer is meaningless narcissism.

Yes, in case you are wondering, I am criticizing the family members of rape and murder victims who refuse to demand justice. Their moral voguing is perpetuating a paradigm where more people’s kids die. Forgive those who seek forgiveness; don’t hand it out as moral welfare and be shocked to find a society full of moral welfare bums.

Oh, and forgiveness does not mean letting them out of jail.

Our society must relearn how to say “No” again. No to crime. No violence. No to anarchy. And it is not hard – we know how to do it. Rudy Giuliani did it in New York City, turning the town of “Taxi Driver” and “Death Wish” into the safe, clean, and prosperous envy of the world. Here’s how. It’s simple. It’s not rocket science. It’s not even assembling Legos.

You enforce the law, arrest criminals, prosecute them, and put them in jail for some time commensurate with their crimes. If they commit many crimes, they go to jail for many years. This has the advantage of making them not be around normal people to commit more crimes. But it requires a recognition of the true purposes of the justice system. They are:

1. To punish criminals, because a bad act requires society's retribution. That retribution demonstrates that crime will not be tolerated. It also gives victims justice via society, thereby replacing the need for victims or their families to seek justice personally.
2. To keep criminals in jail, because people who commit crimes should be in a place where they cannot hurt those who do not. Yes, that means more incarceration. Good. Because every criminal whose voluntary acts have resulted in the loss of their freedom means dozens of normal people who do not lose their freedom because of the criminals' acts.
3. Rehabilitation, but only to the extent rehabilitation efforts make it unnecessary to have to keep the criminal locked up forever. It is not a right. Rehabilitation is important only to the extent – and history shows it is a pretty damn limited extent – that it prevents more crime. It is not there to help the prisoner except incidentally. It is moral confusion to imagine that because a criminal gets caught that we normal members of society somehow incur a moral obligation to do anything for the prisoner but to provide basic food and shelter and not inflict cruel or unusual punishments.

Imposing order means harshness. It requires that actual criminals be treated with the swift, sudden, and relentless force that today only people who pray at abortion mills or who take selfies in the Capitol receive. Their treatment by the garbage feds demonstrates that law enforcement knows how to crack down. It's just that the crackdown should be on actual criminals instead of the political enemies of the Biden regime. Cleaning up law enforcement is another topic and another column, or even a whole book. But one thing that must happen is empowering the properly led and directed police to go after the bad people like they today go after the good people. The Soros DAs must be purged. The restraints on policing thugs must come off. We must collectively shrug when a video shows cops capping or kicking the ass of some degenerate, and if there is a riot then that riot must be crushed. We did that in Los Angeles in 1992 – it is a matter of will.

That is the thing – public order and safety are a matter of will. We know how to do it; we've done it. We just have to choose to do it again and reject the whining and wailing of those who benefit politically from letting criminals run rampant. You know, Democrats.

And we inevitably will make that choice. It's human nature; people can only be pushed so far before they either push back themselves or rally behind someone who ruthlessly will. There is going to be a backlash. The question is what kind there will be. I propose a purposeful, conscious backlash where society says "Enough" and uses the present justice system and structures to stamp out crime. But if that does not happen, then there will be a harsher backlash, one that could easily spin out of control into excess. That's when civilization starts falling apart. Remember the olden days, when there was no crime in mafia neighborhoods because if you tried to mug Mrs. Andolini on her way home from mass the cops found you in the trunk of a Buick parked in New Jersey divided into twelve pieces?

Tough but fair. Yet, the reaction to come might not be so relatively orderly and focused. It's not a problem for you or me, since we're not criminals, but it might get out of control. Yet that's still better than normal people living in fear.

Choose wisely. Choose to stop tolerating this chaos.

1.2.20 8 of the Spookiest Sites in Minnesota (2022-10-19 12:20)

Twin Cities

1. First Avenue, Minneapolis



First Avenue music venue in Minneapolis

Before it was a famous “danceteria,”

[1]

First Avenue

was a Greyhound depot. Legend has it that one of the bathrooms in the 1,550-capacity concert hall is haunted by the ghost of a woman who hung herself in the bus station after her lover—a World War II soldier—didn’t return home. Workers have reported screams and cries emanating from the fifth stall; others claim to have seen a full-body apparition with a noose hanging around its neck, and warn one another not to enter the restroom with the lights off. DJs and concertgoers have also seen the dead woman bogeying down with other specters in the dance lounge upstairs. Curiously, neither the woman nor any member of her frightful entourage has legs.

2. **Mounds Theatre, St. Paul**

The 99-year-old silent movie house and vaudeville theater in

Dayton’s Bluff

was boarded up for 35 years before it roared back to life in the early aughts. The subject of paranormal TV shows and professional ghost-hunting investigations, the theater is allegedly haunted by a trio of ghosts: a happy little girl who bounces a ball onstage, a cursed old man that lurks in the shadowy corners of the projection booth and a crestfallen usher who lists up and down the aisles in search of his lost love. Immersive

[2]

ghost-hunting tours

(opens in new window)

are held here every October; past attendees have described flickering lights, strange smells and inexplicable cold spots.

Duluth

1. William A. Irvin

[3]



1. [4]

@beaconpointeresortduluth

The historic

[5]

William A. Irvin

spent 40 years ferrying iron ore and coal across the Great Lakes; today the imposing ship moonlights as a museum. After undergoing a hull restoration in 2018 and 2019, the vessel returned to its berth in Canal Park and reopened for daily tours in May. This October, however, it'll transform into the wildly popular

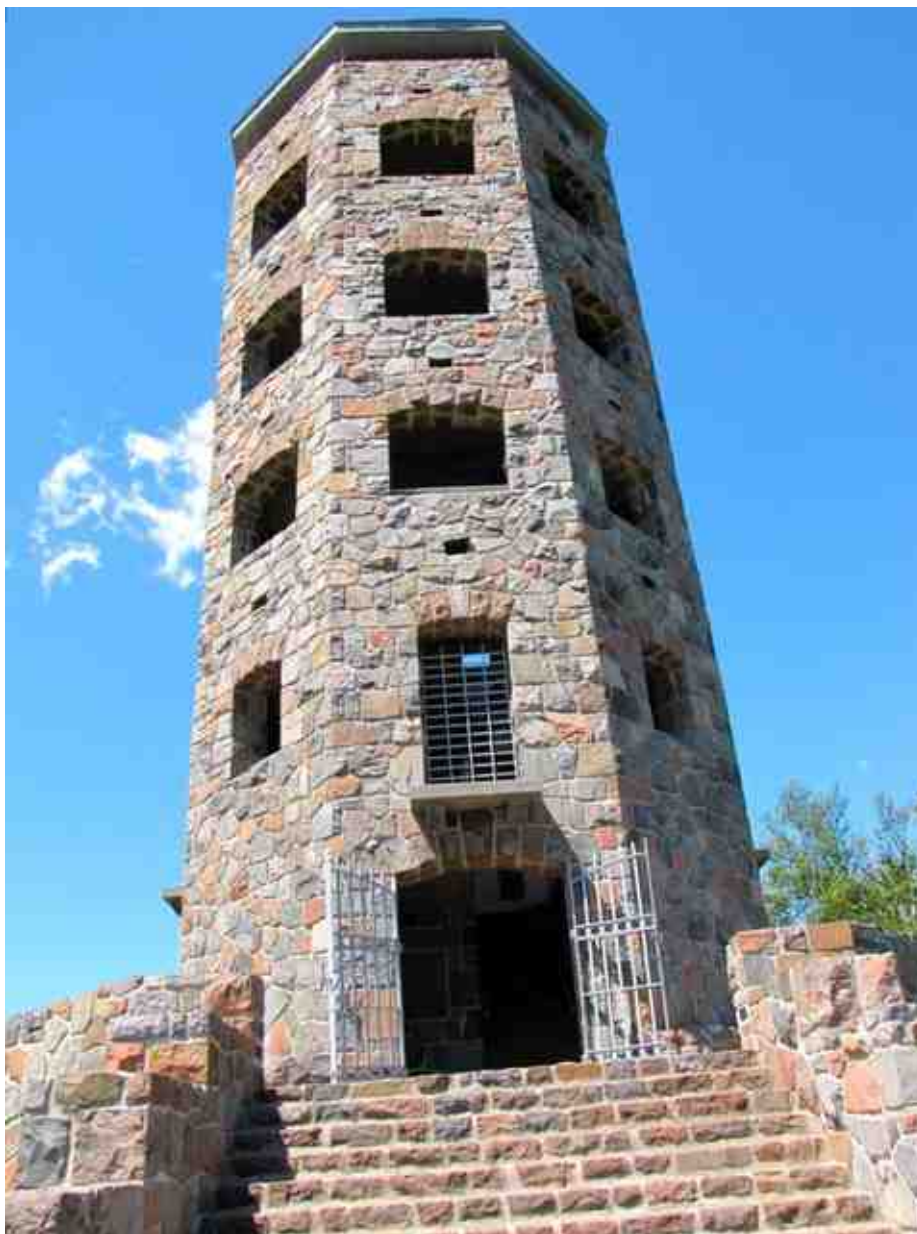
[6]

Duluth Haunted Ship

(opens in new window)

. From Oct. 6 through 29, intrepid visitors can explore the boat at night, feeling their way through the dark engine room and unnervingly empty (or are they?) hallways. Several paranormal groups have conducted investigations here: While some proved inconclusive, others documented bizarre shadows and the sound of footsteps.

2. Enger Tower



Enger Tower in Duluth / Lisa McClintick

The 82-year-old watchtower at the heart of
[7]

Enger Park

is more than a local landmark—it's supposedly haunted by the ghost of an unidentified man who plunged from its 80-foot summit in 1948. Visitors have reported seeing a mysterious figure circling in the windows on the fifth floor, yet when they enter the tower to get a closer look the man all but disappears.

3. Greenwood Cemetery

It's easy to miss this unmarked graveyard, tucked behind a prison and a nursing home off Rice Lake Road. But follow the overgrown footpath across Chester Creek and you'll stumble upon an expanse of rolling green with a harrowing history. Here lie the remains of

4,705 individuals interred between 1891 and 1947—most of them too poor to afford burial in a proper cemetery. The plots were originally marked with wooden crosses, not stone, so few identifiers remain. But as a small, weathered plaque explains, “Many of these were immigrant miners, sailors, farmer, and lumberjacks whose labor helped develop St. Louis County. They were the real pioneers.” Come during daylight hours if you’re curious about the history—but come after dark, say paranormal enthusiasts, if you crave a far eerier experience.

Farther Afield

1. Palmer House Hotel, Sauk Centre



Palmer House Hotel, Sauk Centre / Kerry Peterson

This [8]haunted hotel has been visited by paranormal enthusiasts from across the country, including the crew of Travel Channel's *Ghost Adventures* and, more recently, Dave and Bruce Tango from the Syfy program *Ghost Hunters*. Room 17 is supposed to be the scariest, inhabited by a phantom prostitute named Lucy who, rumor has it, was murdered at Sauk Centre House, a brothel that burned to the ground more than 120 years ago. (The swanky Palmer House Hotel was built atop its grounds one year later.) Room 22, meanwhile, is haunted by Raymond, Lucy's mean-spirited pimp. Good news for amateur investigators: The hotel owner speaks candidly about guests' most chilling encounters.

2. Lakeview Cemetery, Buhl

Considered one of the most haunted graveyards in America, [9]Lakeview Cemetery (opens in new window)

opened in 1913—around the same time that Shaw Hospital was built. When patients there died of tuberculosis or mental illness, they often were buried in this potter's field, many with little more than a cast-iron cross to mark their grave. Lakeview is surrounded by forest on all four sides, adding to its spookiness. Brave souls who've visited describe seeing apparitions in 1920s attire walking amongst the plots, hearing sounds of disembodied voices and footsteps in an otherwise pin-drop silent graveyard, feeling breath on their neck, smelling wretched odors, experiencing flashes of light and having the unsettling sense of being watched.

3. **Crazy Annie's Bridge, Henderson**

The seemingly ordinary bridge at 270th Street is anything but after nightfall. The bridge earned its nickname because locals say it's haunted by Crazy Annie, a World War I widow who drowned her three children in the nearby creek before hanging herself from a tree. Visitors who ventured here after 11 p.m. have heard ungodly screams, seen faces floating in the darkness and figures fleeing through the woods and found handprints on their vehicles after returning home. (They also report cops busting them for loitering, so tread with caution.)

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1.2.21 **What are the Most Haunted Places in Minnesota? 10 Scary Spots** (2022-10-19 12:22)

Want to get scared this Halloween season?

Consider getting spooked by one of these 10 actually creepy places in Minnesota.

I didn't want to believe it either, but our state is full of stories about the paranormal. You've probably even visited some of these spots, without realizing they're haunted!

For your warped pleasure, this post rounds up the most haunted places in Minnesota.

Explore these places, if you dare. But be warned: you might want to bring a friend (or ten?) along for protection.

PS – Don't miss our recently updated guide to the [1]best haunted houses near Minneapolis!

1. Forepaugh's Restaurant (St. Paul, MN)

For this one, we did some good-ole fashioned boots on the ground reporting.

Until 2020, Forepaugh's was a high-end restaurant located in Irvine Park, a park whose spooky experiences led to us researching whether it was haunted. More on that later...

But while researching Irvine Park, we came across some dark stories about Forepaugh's Restaurant, located just 90 feet away, which hint that the historic mansion is seriously haunted.

Back in the late 1800s, Joseph Forepaugh had an affair with his mansion's young maid, Molly. Molly became pregnant and Joseph ended the affair, but Molly was so distraught that [2]she committed suicide. According to reports, she hung herself in the attic by tying a rope to a chandelier and jumping out of the third story window.

Since then, restaurant guests and employees have reported freaky sightings of a woman dressed in 1800s attire, lights turning off and on by themselves, and strange noises coming from the third story attic. In one instance, the disturbances were so bad that it led to an investigation by the St. Paul police, whose K-9 dog refused to enter the attic.

On our own visit, we actually asked some Forepaugh's employees about Molly. They smiled and said, "Oh yes, Molly! We've had quite a few meetings..."



Forepaugh's in St. Paul

2. Irvine Park (St. Paul, MN)

Officially, Irvine Park doesn't show up on the traditional lists of haunted places in Minnesota. But our experience with strange flickering lights in the park, creepy noises, and animals randomly going berserk makes us question otherwise!

And as it turns out, there's an interesting end to that earlier story about Molly the Maid and Joseph Forepaugh...

Joseph Forepaugh died in 1892. He shot himself... in Irvine Park.

3. Mounds Theatre (St. Paul)

Built in 1922, Mounds Theatre originally hosted silent movies. In recent years, studies by the Minnesota Paranormal Investigators Group,

the Minnesota Ghost Hunters Society, and numerous psychics all conclude the same thing: this place is *really* haunted.

Visitors [3]have reported seeing a little girl bouncing a ball on stage, an usher wandering the isles looking for his lost love, an apparition of a bald man watching a movie, loud sounds of a man sobbing, and more strange photographs than you can count.

Mounds now offers haunted tours each October. There's a 1-hour standard tour, but for the truly brave, they also offer a 3-hour investigation that runs from midnight to 3 AM. The overnight tour includes a visit to the creepy basement and an opportunity to explore the grounds on your own. You can purchase tickets [4]at realhauntedotours.com.

4. St. Paul City Hall (St. Paul, MN)

On February 13, 1906, St. Paul City Hall was the site of the last execution in Minnesota history.

William Williams was convicted of murdering a teenager as well as his own mother, and he was sentenced to hanging outside City Hall. Except [5]they botched his hanging.

On the first attempt, the rope was too long, and police had to physically hold Williams by the rope until he died from strangulation.

Since then, witnesses have seen apparitions wearing old-style clothing in and around City Hall. Including, you guessed it... a man hanging from a noose.

5. The Wabasha Street Caves (St. Paul, MN)

We're not sure why St. Paul seems to be the most haunted of the two Twin Cities, but in the case of [6]Wabasha Street Caves, it probably has something to do with this place's creepy past.

Before the caves closed in 2020, they offered ghost tours. The tours had *tons* of wild stories about the caves, including one that was especially bloody – a massive mobster massacre.

As the story goes, a prohibition-era bootlegging operation went awry, leading to a massive shootout between mobsters and tons of people dead. Since then, visitors often reported strange people sitting at the bar, and the cave owners even maintain a collection of hundreds of spooky ghost photos.

Even without the stories, the dark and damp caves, located deep in St. Paul's river bluffs, can be a spooky place. Here's to hoping they reopen soon.

6. First Avenue (Minneapolis, MN)

Before First Avenue was one of the most well-known music venues in the country, it was the site of a bus station. [7]As the story goes, a woman was waiting at the bus station for her lover to return from war. When she learned he'd died in combat, she hung herself in the restroom.

Since then, multiple First Avenue employees have seen an apparition hanging in the women's bathroom. Always in the fifth stall, which happens to be the exact scene of the tragedy.

7. The Palmer House Hotel (Sauk Centre, MN)

The Palmer House Hotel, located in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, is rumored to be one of the most haunted places in America. It was even featured on its own episode of The Travel Channel's [8]Ghost Adventures!

The Palmer House was built in 1901... just one year after a fire burned the old Sauk Centre house to the ground, killing hundreds of people in the tragedy. Today, the paranormal activity seems endless, with guests and employees reporting strange voices, doors slamming shut, furniture getting rearranged, and most commonly, the sounds of phantom children playing in the hallways.

8. The Glensheen Mansion (Duluth, MN)

A popular tourist attraction and a spot on the National Register of Historic Places, the Glensheen Mansion in Duluth is a beautiful estate on the shores of Lake Superior. Originally built in 1905 by the wealthy Congdon family, this history took a turn for the worse when Elizabeth Congon and her nurse were brutally murdered in the mansion by the family's adopted daughter.

They say Elizabeth's ghost still haunts the mansion to this day. The mansion is now owned by the University of Minnesota, who offers [9]creepy flashlight tours for adults wanting to learn all about the mansion's eerie past.

9. Enger Tower (Duluth, MN)

[10]Enger Tower *just looks* like a creepy spot. Located in Duluth's Enger Park, this tall, narrow watchtower is made out of old stones and stands over five stories tall. And it's supposedly haunted.

In the 1940s, a man jumped to his death from the top of the 80-foot structure. Since then, many people claim to see a strange figure wandering the tower's top floor. Yet when they enter the tower to get a better look, he's nowhere to be found.

10. The Warden's House (Stillwater, MN)

How's this for a frightening place?

The Warden's House in Stillwater was first built in 1853 to house the wardens of Stillwater Prison, the oldest prison in the state of Minnesota.

The last warden who lived in the house was Henry Wolfer. Wolfer's daughter died from appendicitis shortly after she gave birth to a son, who Wolfer then raised in the Warden's house without incident.

Fast forward nearly 100 years later. While taking a tour of the Warden House Museum, a young girl asked the tour guide, “Is the woman always there?”

1. <https://discoverthecities.com/best-haunted-houses-minneapolis-minnesota/>
 2. <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/10/09/forepaughs-restaurant-upscale-dining-for-the-afterlife/>
 3. <https://www.twincities.com/2008/03/25/you-too-could-encounter-mounds-theatre-ghosts/>
 4. <https://realhauntedtours.com/>
 5. <https://www.minnpost.com/mnopedia/2013/02/february-13-1906-minnesotas-last-legal-execution/>
 6. <http://www.wabashastreetcaves.com/>
 7. <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/mns-most-haunted-first-avenue/89-606638862>
 8. <https://www.travelchannel.com/interests/haunted/articles/palmer-house-hotel>
 9. <https://glensheen.org/tour/flashlight/>
 10. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enger_Tower
-

1.2.22 What’s wrong with Minnesota (2022-10-19 12:30)

I subscribe to several conservative monthly news and opinion reports such as Hillsdale College’s “Imprimis” and “Thinking Minnesota.” This month, the list of leftist programs that are leading to the downfall of our republic are almost too much to stomach. I will list a few and encourage readers to go to the any of the conservative sources, such as those listed above, to get more in-depth information. My personal list and brief summary is as follows:

The \$9 billion budget surplus: If this money is not returned to the people it will be spent on new government programs that will never be retired and therefore result in billions of dollars in higher taxes for all Minnesotans in the future.

Education: Critical Race Theory is being promoted in all areas of education including the University of Minnesota where future teachers are taught that the white race is responsible for all the problems of this era and other related nonsense such as men and women can choose to be whatever gender they wish to be, perhaps evening an elephant or monkey. This education policy is truly a race to the bottom for our children and grandchildren.

Fiscal corruption: One article pointed to the various federal programs administered by the state that will likely be allocated over \$400 million for “free food” programs to the poor children in our state. Surely a noble cause, but the practice of allocating of money to irresponsible “non-profit” organizations has resulted in the loss of millions of dollars while accomplishing nothing toward feeding anyone except the organizers of the nonprofits. One investigation now underway by the FBI is seeking to trace \$48 million spent on luxury homes, cars and travel. This investigation has been, apparently, stalled by the FBI, who are reluctant to point to various political figures that were likely involved in this and similar fraud.

Roe-Wade: With the potential overturn of Roe-Wade it seems to me that an honest discussion of when human life begins would be more helpful than the absolute “before intercourse” or “one day after live birth.” The two extremes, held by some on the left and the right need to be thought through and provisions made to account for the very rare situations where the woman’s life is in eminent jeopardy. Life of a human being in the womb needs to be protected as surely as any living human in our society.

Crime Issues: The current Justice Department, under Democratic leadership, has reduced sentencing guidelines and refused to prosecute “minor crime,” such as carjacking, leading to a situation where many lawyers and criminals believe that it is, almost impossible to be convicted for anything in Minnesota. It is not just the statistics on crime but how most people sense their own vulnerability that determines the desirability of living in any state or community.

With this short list of issues plus the overall state of the entire country it is clear that the current political leadership will drive Minnesota in the wrong direction and keep it down. We once had a thriving high-tech, manufacturing, farming and mining economy that has been replaced by a problematic high-tax state system and a city core that is increasingly crime ridden and dangerous

1.2.23 Biden’s Diesel Fuel Supply Crisis Could Soon Cripple America in Ways Never Before Seen (2022-10-21 22:14)

Oil prices and President Joe Biden’s continued draining of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) have dominated the headlines over the past few weeks, but analysts say a more impactful and serious crisis on the energy front looms: a diesel fuel shortage.

Diesel doesn’t get as much of the limelight as oil and gas, but it should because diesel fuel is the industrial lifeblood of the United States, and the price of diesel alone probably has a more significant impact on inflation and the prices you’re paying at the grocery store over any other factor. Without ample amounts of diesel, semi-trucks don’t move, farms are shut down, and critical manufacturing sectors are crippled.

As [1]Bloomberg noted this week, “The US has just 25 days of diesel supply, the lowest since 2008, according to the Energy Information Administration. At the same time, the four-week rolling average of distillates supplied, a proxy for demand, rose to its highest seasonal level since 2007.”

The Biden administration has remained strangely silent, probably hoping that the dismal news doesn't hit the mainstream because it's a total political timebomb waiting to go off, especially as the midterm elections are so close.

Bloomberg noted:

The diesel crunch comes just weeks ahead of the midterm elections and has the potential to drive up prices for consumers who already view inflation and the economy as a top voting issue. Retail prices have been steadily climbing for more than two weeks. At \$5.324 a gallon, they're 50 % higher than this time last year, according to AAA data.

Notably, National Economic Council Director Brian Deese recently commented on the emerging crisis. Deese said diesel inventories are "unacceptably low" and added that "all options are on the table," whatever that means.

Aside from that remark, the White House has done little to nothing about the issue — an issue that could further cripple confidence in the ability of Democrats to lead America through tough times, as they've already proven on many occasions over the past two years.

Diesel has also been described as the nation's "[2]inflation canary," given that it's so critically important for everything we need to survive. The bottom line is that without ample supplies and record-high prices for what's left, Americans will get financially hammered over the winter and into 2023.

Folks, it's probably going to get really bad out there. The scary part is that the Biden administration doesn't seem to give a rip.

Taking from [3]@JavierBlas:

“US has just 106 million barrels of diesel stockpiles. Last time inventories were that low in mid-October was in 1951. Inventories should be 30 % higher this time of the year.” Fed have another wave of energy-led inflation coming? [4]<https://t.co/HURQmUg2oH>
[5]pic.twitter.com/vKMmCheowA

— Valerie Tytel (@ValerieTytel) [6]October 19, 2022

How bad is this situation truly? Let’s put the pieces together.

We have a historically low supply of diesel fuel, which powers everything that allows us to eat, drink, and live our daily lives. Because of the diminished supply under Biden, we have surging prices, making the cost of hauling goods, farming, and everything else that requires diesel fuel (pretty much everything) higher than ever before, which will cause prices of everything we use and need to increase in the coming months significantly.

Add to that a potentially hard, cold winter for many parts of the country, when heating oil demand will skyrocket, causing prices to soar once again over competition for what’s left in the tank.

The United States has just 25 days until our diesel gas supply is depleted.

Prices are going to skyrocket across the board if this happens.

— Ryan Fournier (@RyanAFournier) [7]October 20, 2022

I'd say that it's unbelievable that the Biden administration has let the problem get so bad as to be a potentially crippling crisis for America in the coming months, but it's not. In fact, it's quite believable, and it lines up with other jaw-droppingly stupid decisions made by the current White House that many now believe are so bad that they are likely intentional, for whatever sinister reasons.

So, in other words, if you thought prices at the pump, the grocery store, and everything else that affects our lives are high now, you ain't seen nothing yet, Jack.

1. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-10-19/a-25-day-diesel-supply-and-surging-demand-are-a-worry-for-biden?leadSource=uverify%20wall>
2. <https://www.zerohedge.com/energy/diesel-us-economys-inflation-canary>
3. https://twitter.com/JavierBlas?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. <https://t.co/HURQmUg2oH>
5. <https://t.co/vKMmCheowA>
6. https://twitter.com/ValerieTytel/status/1582632369751674891?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
7. https://twitter.com/RyanAFournier/status/1583156078836998145?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

1.2.24 Chris Hayes is worried about the chaos that might interrupt the chaos of the Biden presidency if the GOP wins (2022-10-21 22:21)

Yes, [1]we already gave you some he-can't-be-serious Chris Hayes hot takes today, but he keeps talking, so we have to fill you in. It's what we do!

Chris

is super concerned all you ignorant common folks out there just don't understand the chaos that will result from a GOP victory in the upcoming midterm elections.

You

know, inflation could skyrocket, prices could soar, we could leave Americans stranded in Afghanistan, they might try to take people's jobs away over personal medical decisions, Russia could invade Ukraine, there could be threats of nuclear war, and they might spend morning, noon, and night comparing American citizens to people who murdered 6 million Jews.

Yeah, that would be bad.

I

think it's very hard to communicate to the median voter convincingly the chaos that a GOP victory is likely to unleash, and I think a lot of professionals vastly underestimate the tail risk.

— Chris Hayes (@chrishayes) [2]October 21, 2022

Of all the bubble dwellers on the Left, Chris Hayes's bubble is particularly opaque.
'Tail Risk' sounds like a Secret Service code name during the Clinton administration. Anyhoo ...
You all know Twitter had something to say about Chris's histrionics.

You're having quite a week.

— Charles C. W. Cooke (@charlescwcooke) [3]October 21, 2022

Chris is an overachiever.

Ah yes the sky is falling routine again.

Chris, people see the sky falling all around them with this current administration. It's a disaster.

— 3Gun Gorilla (@GomesBolt) [4]October 21, 2022

Trending

- [5]Chris Hayes is worried about the chaos that might interrupt the chaos of the Biden presidency if the GOP wins
- [6]To sniff or not to sniff? Joe Biden meets with Dylan Mulvaney, trans activist, at the White House

Bingo!

I
think it's very hard to communicate to bourgeois, out of touch
"professionals" just how savvy "median voters" actually are, and I think
those "professionals" vastly underestimate how much they are loathed

— Clifton Duncan (She/Her) (@cliftonaduncan) [7]October 21, 2022

Clifton gets it.

Americans might even go back to being able to afford basic necessities.

— Maze (@mazemoore) [8]October 21, 2022

The horror! Oh no! Please, not that!

"Chaos" in this case meaning "extremely traditional gridlock."

Come on dude.

— Ben Domenech (@bdomenech) [9]October 21, 2022

Sweet, sweet gridlock. Now that's something we could get on board with.

Almost

as chaotic as Russia attacking the Ukraine, N Korea launching 30
missiles after a 4 year break, China seeing Russia get away with
starting war & threatening Taiwan, a fentanyl trafficking &
crime wave, 9 % inflation & a stock market crash all in 18 months.

— David Moyle (@DavidCMoyle) [10]October 21, 2022

Oh, it could get much, much worse if the GOP wins. They could ... gulp ... bring back mean tweets!!!

I think it is very hard to communicate to the median media elite convincingly the chaos that one-party Dem controlled cities unleashED on our lives and on our children, and I think a lot of you underestimate our memories.

— Maud Maron (@MaudMaron) [11]October 21, 2022

Hear! Hear!

Lots of voters tend to focus on the chaos they see now, and they judge that by things impacting their daily life, rather than whats on the news. Like food and gas prices & a general sense that stuff is not normal.

— Chris Arnade 🐼 (@Chris_arnade) [12]October 21, 2022

In other words, normal people are concerned about real life.

You mean Democrats are going to start burning cities again?

— BPM (@LastOneLeft1960) [13]October 21, 2022

For democracy and stuff.

That's because the median voter is not a shrill drama queen [14]<https://t.co/6VFXHSRiNZ>

— Chuck Ross (@ChuckRossDC) [15]October 21, 2022

We think it's very hard to communicate to the median voter how hilarious it will be watching Chris Hayes when Democrats lose.

1. <https://twitchy.com/samj-3930/2022/10/21/terms-are-acceptable-maam-chris-hayes-gets-all-tough-telling-the-right-to-mind-your-own-gd-business-and-it-does-not-go->
2. https://twitter.com/chrislhayes/status/1583559558760255488?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
3. https://twitter.com/charlescwooke/status/1583597156472352768?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. https://twitter.com/GomesBolt/status/1583560528513093632?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
5. <https://twitchy.com/fuzzychimp-313137/2022/10/21/chris-hayes-is-worried-about-the-chaos-that-might-rupt-the-chaos-of-the-biden-presidency-if-the-gop-wins/>
6. <https://twitchy.com/fuzzychimp-313137/2022/10/21/to-sniff-or-not-to-sniff-joe-biden-meets-with-dylan-mulvaney-trans-activist-at-the-white-house/>
7. https://twitter.com/cliftonaduncan/status/1583593423574949888?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
8. https://twitter.com/mazemoore/status/1583585254324916224?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
9. https://twitter.com/bdomenech/status/1583596694918164480?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
10. https://twitter.com/DavidCMoyle/status/1583584600755879936?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
11. https://twitter.com/MaudMaron/status/1583561486906949632?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
12. https://twitter.com/Chris_arnade/status/1583598696767242243?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
13. https://twitter.com/LastOneLeft1960/status/1583576035802566656?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
14. <https://t.co/6VFXHSRiNZ>
15. https://twitter.com/ChuckRossDC/status/1583584968441094144?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

1.2.25 Scary Scene as Biden Appears to Have a Physical Issue During an MSNBC Interview (2022-10-21 22:24)

Normally, when I write pieces on Joe Biden's brain going on the fritz, I'm heavy on the snark and jokes about the White House not getting his drug cocktail right. But a newly released MSNBC interview with the president took things to a place where that doesn't seem appropriate.

In the first clip, Biden appeared to have a physical issue when asked about running in 2024. You have to watch the clip to get the full effect, but the president not only goes silent, but his eyes droop down and he looks like he's about to fall over for a second. It was so bad that the interviewer reacts in a startled fashion, obviously believing Biden was going to pass out.

Scary clip

BIDEN: "It's my intention to run again."

MSNBC: "Dr. Biden is for it?"

BIDEN: crickets

MSNBC: "Mr. President?"

BIDEN: "Dr. Biden thinks that uh, my wife thinks that uh, that I uh, that, that we're, that we're doing something very important." [1] pic.twitter.com/IPVyEi2kv3

— Steve Guest (@SteveGuest) [2] October 21, 2022

It's also worth noting that there's an editor's cut in that part of the interview. Was he actually out of it for even longer than the clip shows?

Eventually, after the interviewer seemed to jolt Biden back into consciousness, the president stumbled through his answer. His pacing was noticeably very lethargic while doing so, and his struggles continued in other parts of the interview.

Is Biden ok?[3]pic.twitter.com/wnAOM47bkj

— Daily Wire (@realDailyWire) [4]October 21, 2022

I'm not sure exactly when this interview was filmed, but it either came right before or right after another incident where Biden [5]spoke unintelligibly to a reporter in Pennsylvania without even realizing it. Something is definitely going on with him, and those in the media refusing to deal with the issue are now complicit in covering up what appears to be a serious issue with the president's health.

This is really concerning stuff, and no amount of deflecting to Trump holding a glass of water with two hands will change that. What's in that video should pique the interest of any fair-minded individual about Biden's condition. The presidency is not a job for someone that should be in a retirement home, and even though we've all had our fun in the past, we've reached the point where this isn't funny anymore.

There is no way Biden is actually functioning as the president. What kind of drugs is he taking? What is he doing when he runs off to Delaware every weekend (he's currently there again)? Why do his energy levels appear to vary so wildly? These are questions that demand answers, and it's high time the press corps put aside its partisanship

and did its job. This is too important to keep sweeping under the rug.

1. <https://t.co/lPVyEi2kv3>
 2. https://twitter.com/SteveGuest/status/1583603432476200960?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 3. <https://t.co/wnA0M47bkJ>
 4. https://twitter.com/realDailyWire/status/1583598712797831168?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 5. <https://redstate.com/bonchie/2022/10/20/dazed-and-confused-joe-biden-campaigns-with-dazed-and-confused-john-fetterman-n646207>
-

1.2.26 Biden Tries to Scare Americans About Going Back to Trump's Booming Economy (2022-10-21 22:27)

Speaking from the White House Friday afternoon, President Joe Biden attempted to scare Americans into thinking a return to President Donald Trump's MAGA economy would be a bad thing.

"Mega MAGA trickle down" [1]pic.twitter.com/0weQlYjy61 — Townhall.com (@townhallcom) [2]October 21, 2022

When

Biden took office on January 20, 2021, gas was \$2.37 per gallon and the U.S. was in a rapid economic recovery. Then, Biden and Democrats passed trillions of dollars in new spending, slamming the brakes on growth and exponentially driving inflation on essential products.

Here's

the October wages v Bidenflation chart. Real wages can't catch up. With inflation at this level the Fed will force a severe economic decline. Biden owns it but inexplicably continues to spend juicing inflation - destroying incomes & savings for American workers & families. [3]pic.twitter.com/upAulKQ3Aq — Andy Puzder (@AndyPuzder) [4]October 13, 2022

And

while Biden attempted to take credit for low unemployment numbers in a

number of states across the country, he failed to acknowledge states with the best economies are currently run by Republicans.

NEW: Nine of the top 10 states for jobs recovered since the pandemic are led by Republican governors.

All 10 states have Republican-controlled legislatures. [5][pic.twitter.com/kOG5XqXLn7](https://twitter.com/kOG5XqXLn7) — RNC Research (@RNCResearch) [6]October 21, 2022

Biden

knows the economy is about to come crashing down and Democrats are about to get wiped out in the midterm elections as a result.

Biden

knows a full blown recession is coming next year. This is him trying to get out in front of the blame and everyone knows it. [7]<https://t.co/dwCoD6sdkx> — Stephen L. Miller (@redsteeze) [8]October 21, 2022

1. <https://t.co/0weQlYJy61>
2. https://twitter.com/townhallcom/status/1583485634467213314?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
3. <https://t.co/upAuIKQ3Aq>
4. https://twitter.com/AndyPuzder/status/1580672085177028609?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
5. <https://t.co/kOG5XqXLn7>
6. https://twitter.com/RNCResearch/status/1583476846951211009?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
7. <https://t.co/dwCoD6sdkx>
8. https://twitter.com/redsteeze/status/1583484913092767751?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

1.2.27 Clyburn Says the Quiet Part Out Loud About Inflation (2022-10-21 22:30)

“What do you say to people who say, ‘Boy, yeah, but Washington can talk about all these big programs everything else, but I’m worried about the cost of food. I’m seeing the cost of eggs shoot up chicken, gasoline, you know, coming now with the winter, the heating.’ I mean, these are all concerns that hit very directly to people who may say ‘you know what’s going on in DC doesn’t think of us?’” host Jose Diaz-Balart

said to the House Majority Whip.

“Well, let me make it very clear. All of us are concerned about these rising costs, and all of us knew this would be the case when we put in place this recovery program,” he admitted. “Any time you put more money into the economy, prices tend to rise.”

President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan in March of 2021, and the \$740 billion Inflation Reduction Act, a massive health care and environmental package, in August of 2022.

□WATCH:

House Democrat Whip Jim Clyburn claims Democrats KNEW their wasteful spending would cause inflation — but they did it anyway. [1]pic.twitter.com/ojiMf41MTj — Senate Republican Communications Center (@SRCC) [2]October 20, 2022

Mr. Clyburn admitted what we all knew - Democrats wasteful spending killed our economy with record inflation.

Democrats are directly responsible for American families struggling to pay their energy bills and their grocery bills. [3]pic.twitter.com/pPSPcL6Dap — Rep. Bruce Westerman (@RepWesterman) [4]October 20, 2022

[5]What’s Interesting About the Steve Bannon Verdict

[6]Matt Vespa

Listen to how
flippantly Clyburn — a top congressional Democrat — admits they all knew
there'd be an inflation crisis after they pumped trillions into our
economy.

They just didn't care. [7]<https://t.co/Mk2k8o2Lb1> — Jake Schneider (@jacobkschneider) [8]October 20, 2022

In
September, consumer prices were up 8.2 percent compared to a year ago,
according to U.S. Labor Department data published earlier this month.

1. <https://t.co/ojiMf41MTj>
 2. https://twitter.com/SRCC/status/1583107374801252353?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 3. <https://t.co/pPSPcL6Dap>
 4. https://twitter.com/RepWesterman/status/1583189020611596288?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 5. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2022/10/21/steve-bannon-verdict-n2614860>
 6. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2022/10/21/steve-bannon-verdict-n2614860>
 7. <https://t.co/Mk2k8o2Lb1>
 8. https://twitter.com/jacobkschneider/status/1583138060363239425?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
-

1.2.28 Soros-Backed Group May Have Used Illegal Money From Biden Admin (2022-10-25 22:29)

A George Soros-funded group is being investigated for possibly using federal grants given to it by the Biden administration.

A former Trump administration official and two congressional Republicans are questioning how Alianza Americas, an immigration advocacy group, got \$8.5 million, which came from tax money from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the Health Resources and Services Administration.

However, it is speculated that the money was used illegally for “lobbying.”

Reps. Chip Roy (R-TX) and Beth Van Duyne (R-TX) wrote a letter to the agency’s inspector general expressing “serious concerns about blatant ignorance or gross negligence of awarding of grants.”

The group is known for following in the Left’s footsteps, calling to defund the U.S. Customs Border and Protection and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

On September 12, the group said that it met with representatives from Sen. Dick Durbin’s (D-IL) office to “share about the urgency of defunding” ICE and CBP.

In 2021, Alianza was given a \$7.5 million CDC grant “to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate impacts among Latinx and Latin American immigrants.”

The woke group was also given \$1 million to increase COVID-19 vaccine status” in certain communities.

“ I have continued to monitor actions taken by the Department and am deeply concerned that taxpayer dollars, in the guise of federal grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), are being used to fund lobbying activities and contacts in the United States and foreign jurisdictions and to promote illegal immigration into the United States,” the letter states.

“ As members of Congress we take seriously our roles of ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely and within the confines of the law, and we are sure you share that goal,” Roy and Van Dyne wrote in their letter. “As such, we are requesting a review of all grants received by Alianza Americas as well as the publicly disclosed actions taken by Alianza Americas that would be in violation of the law and federal regulations,” the letter continues.

1.2.29 The Rebirth of Mao Zedong (2022-10-25 22:30)

Mao Zedong (“Chairman Mao” to the Chinese people) served as the dictator of the People’s Republic of China from 1949, when the communists took over China, until his death in 1976. Historians consider him the greatest mass murderer in human history, with somewhere between 60-70 million (after birth) innocent deaths to his credit. This far outpaces Joseph Stalin or Adolf Hitler. It would be hard to find a greater fiend in human history than Mao Zedong.

But since Mao’s death, no single individual in the Chinese Communist Party has been able to accrue as much power in his hands as Mao did. Many have tried, but none has succeeded.

Until now.

Xi Jinping has become the most dangerous man on earth, because he, without serious challenge, now unquestionably controls the Communist Party in China, a country with a huge economy, powerful military, and the largest population on earth. At the current 10th Party Congress of the Communist Party, Xi was given an unprecedented third five-year term as President/General Secretary of the Communist Party. This is actually unconstitutional in China, though the Chinese constitution is about as weighty to the CCP as the American constitution is to Democrats. The Chinese Constitution states that a person can only serve two five-year terms. This constitutional coup by Xi would be almost like, well, a President of the United States ordering the FBI to invade the home of a former President to find information that might prevent that former President from serving again. Not exactly the same, but close. Xi will now serve a third term, and no doubt, he will be dictator for as long as he chooses, probably for the rest of his life. He is 69 years old, so he may be around for awhile.

A very bizarre event occurred on Saturday at the CCP meeting, one that solidified Xi's power and sent a stern message to anyone in the Party who might dare to oppose him. Former President Hu Jintao was sitting next to Xi when two men came, grabbed Hu by the arms, and forcibly removed him from the event. Hu is seen apparently pleading with Xi Jinping, who basically ignored him. Hu is gone, and nobody knows where.

The symbolism here cannot be denied. International observers speculate that Xi orchestrated the event in order to send a warning to any possible opponents, to anyone who might have even a thought about challenging him. Nobody will. Xi is now free to follow any course he chooses, and there will be no serious resistance.

The Chinese people have not been given any clarification as to what happened in the Hu event, nor will they be—at least no true explanation. The Chinese Xinhua News Agency posted the following hilarious statement on Twitter (which is blocked in China): “When he (Hu) was not feeling well during the session, his staff, for his health, accompanied him to a room next to the meeting venue for a rest. Now he is much better.” Yes, accompanied him by forcibly dragging him out of the meeting. Hu might indeed be resting peaceably now—with his ancestors.

Xi hasn't killed as many yet as Mao Zedong did; he hasn't needed to. We don't know how many Uyghurs he has disposed of, and the number of "disappeared" dissidents who have "disappeared" forever will probably never be known. The 6+ million deaths from the Wuhan virus can be directly attributed to him, as a new study (more on this in a subsequent article soon) indicates with near-virtual certainty that the virus was created in a lab. I have no doubt that the CCP released the virus into the world intentionally to not only see its effects, but also as a cover for China's aggressions. A few thousand Chinese deaths, and a few million others around the globe, are totally inconsequential to the Party that has killed more people than any other in history. Xi Jinping is every bit as much of a moral monster as Mao Zedong was. And now he has total power in China. He'll stop at nothing to accomplish whatever goals he has. Taiwan is almost certainly on his radar, and soon, as in, before Joe Biden leaves office.

Xi Jinping, not Vladimir Putin, is America's greatest enemy. Americans, because of our western, Euro-centric history, have been slow to catch on that world power is shifting to Asia, and our knowledge of that continent is woefully inadequate. We need to wake up soon to the greatest threat we face—a new Mao Zedong, who now has control of perhaps the largest military in the world and a huge economy. Mao didn't have that. Xi does.

And we have Joe Biden as President.

I said earlier that Xi Jinping is the most dangerous man in the world. Maybe number 2. After Joe Biden. Stupidity in power is absolutely horrifying.

This is not good, folks.

1.2.30 Wisc. School Board Passes Sexually Explicit Curriculum, Despite Protests, Violating 1st Amendment in Process (2022-10-25 22:51)

The Wauwatosa School District in Wisconsin held a board meeting last night that drew protesters due to the inclusion of sexually explicit material in their curriculum. Parents showed up on both sides to tell the board what they thought of it. Outside the event was a protest that was attended by Moms For Liberty and the president of Gays Against Groomers, Jaimee Michell. One of the protesters had a sign with images from the curriculum that a local news channel refused to film, saying they could not show the images on television due to their graphic nature.

One of the local news stations in Wisconsin told Moms for Liberty they couldn't show the curriculum on television because it's too graphic. But it's fine for 2nd graders. [1] #Grooming [2]pic.twitter.com/vlzz7ge4zb

— Megan Fox (@MeganFoxWriter) [3]October 25, 2022

Not only are there graphic images but lessons that teach things to seven-year-olds like the vagina has “elasticity that allows a penis to fit inside.” Why a seven-year-old needs to know that is beyond imagining. The curriculum also includes gender ideology that pushes transgenderism on children. Counterprotesters showed up as well, holding “pride” flags, but when questioned by Michell, herself a lesbian woman, they admitted they were straight. It's hard to understand why straight

people are waving gay flags in support of giving explicit material to kids. Michell told them what she thought of it very plainly.

“You’re making the gay community look really bad,” Michell told them, “by supporting the sexualization, indoctrination, and mutilation of children’s bodies.” The women just stood there, mute, waving their rainbow flags.

[4]ARE YOU EVEN GAY? Gays Against Groomers President Confronts Straight Woke White Women LARPing

When Michell tried to speak to the board during public comment time, the board president, Dr. Eric Jessup-Anger, tried to intimidate her by demanding she dox herself in a public meeting that was being broadcast online. Michell is a Wisconsin resident. Board members who don’t like being confronted often try to make unlawful rules to stifle speech. Jessup-Anger went a step further and tried to discredit Michell by pointing out that she does not live in the district. That information is irrelevant to public comment time. What Jessup-Anger did has been litigated in other states many times and [5]found to be unlawful and intimidation of the citizenry by government agents.

The exchange can be seen below.

[6]Gays Against Groomers Jaimee Michell Confronts Groomer School Board

But Jessup-Anger didn't stop there. After watching him do this to several people, I decided I should warn him that he was opening the board to liability. I had intended to just cover the meeting on my live stream but no one in the meeting seemed to know what he was doing was problematic, so I raised my hand to speak on the Zoom meeting. Jessup-Anger chastised members of the public for using the names of the school board members, another thing that puffed-up elected officials think they can demand — calling them “personal attacks.” Bad boards never object to people who use their names in a complimentary way, however, only when citizens are critical of them. But then Jessup-Anger did something really stupid after I began telling him where the board went wrong. He declared that he had the right to “cut off comments that are not in alignment with the dignity of the body,” and he silenced my microphone before my time was up.

[7]

This type of action has been declared illegal by the 6th circuit and as such has set a precedent that he would be unlikely to overcome in a lawsuit. The Free Speech Center at Middle Tennessee State University [8]explains:

The court ruled in *Ison v. Madison Local School District Board of Education* that an Ohio school board's policy prohibiting “personally directed,” “abusive” and “antagonistic” comments violated free-speech rights under the First Amendment.

The government can't prohibit speech purely because it disparages or offends, the court said. Doing so would be discriminating against speech on the basis of the viewpoint of the speech.

Discriminating against my speech on the basis of my viewpoint was exactly what Jessup-Anger did by cutting off my comments before my time was up. He declared my remarks about the law “inappropriate” in his subjective opinion. The person who spoke before me, however, used swear words but was not cut off because he was complimentary to the board, calling critics “batsh*t crazy.” My comments contained no profanity, just some mild scolding and warning the board about the potential liability of violating open meetings laws and the Constitution. But Jessup-Anger, with the help of Board Clerk Dr. Jenny Hoag, cut my microphone off prematurely.

This is not what democracy looks like, in case anyone was wondering.

[9]Megan Fox Goes OFF on Wisconsin School Board Violating 1ST Amendment Right to Speak

PJ Media reached out to Jessup-Anger to ask why the board did what it did. As of publishing, we have not heard back but we will update you if he responds.

After public comment, the board voted to adopt the sexually explicit content in the curriculum despite the public outcry and scolded the critics for not coming forward a year ago when the curriculum was introduced. There is no evidence the community knew what was included in the curriculum until recently.

A montage of the evening can be seen below.

1. https://twitter.com/hashtag/Grooming?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
2. <https://t.co/vlzz7ge4zb>
3. https://twitter.com/MeganFoxWriter/status/1584946360435888134?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. <https://rumble.com/v1pt5lb-are-you-even-gay-gays-against-groomers-president-confronts-straight-woke-wh.html>
5. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/public-bodies-prohibited-requiring-community-members-to-disclose-ad>

dress-public-comm

6. <https://rumble.com/v1ptbab-gays-against-groomers-jaimie-michell-confronts-groomer-school-board.html>
 7. <https://pjmedia.com/culture/megan-fox/2022/09/16/behind-closed-doors-american-school-counselor-association-conference-exposed-n1629619>
 8. <https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/post/1985/6th-circuit-says-school-board-s-public-comment-rules-violate-first-amendment>
 9. <https://rumble.com/v1pq13l-megan-fox-goes-off-on-wisconsin-school-board-violating-1st-amendment-right-.html>
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1.2.31 Voldemort Defends Harry Potter Author JK Rowling (2022-10-25 23:30)

Ralph Fiennes, the actor who portrayed evil wizard Voldemort in the *Harry Potter* franchise, has come out swinging, defending author JK Rowling over the abuse she's endured for speaking out about gender identity and trans issues.

"JK Rowling has written these great books about empowerment, about young children finding themselves as human beings. It's about how you become a better, stronger, more morally centred human being. The verbal abuse directed at her is disgusting, it's appalling," Fiennes [1]told the *New York Times*.

"I mean, I can understand a viewpoint that might be angry at what she says about women. But it's not some obscene, uber-right-wing fascist. It's just a woman saying, 'I'm a woman and I feel I'm a woman and I want to be able to say that I'm a woman.' And I understand where she's coming from. Even though I'm not a woman."

Rowling has been the recipient of [2]death threats for not being woke enough for the LGBTQ cult.

Fiennes also panned "cancel culture" in the interview, saying, "Righteous anger is righteous, but often it becomes kind of dumb because it can't work its way through the grey areas. It has no nuance."

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/22/style/ralph-fiennes-robert-moses.html>

2. <https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/matt-margolis/2021/11/22/j-k-rowling-getting-death-threats-for-not-being-woke-enough-for-the-trans-movement-n1535534>

1.2.32 BREAKING: PA Senate Debate an UTTER DISASTER for Fetterman (2022-10-25 23:33)

On Monday, John Fetterman's campaign desperately sought to lower expectations for their candidate when he faced off against Republican nominee Dr. Mehmet Oz—[1]even going so far as to suggest that they expected Fetterman to lose.

I can assure you they didn't lower expectations nearly enough.

I watched the entire debate, and I have to admit that I sometimes felt bad for Fetterman. I'm sure he expected to have bounced back from the stroke quicker and stronger than he has, but Tuesday night's debate performance merely demonstrated just how far he has to go in his recovery. Without a doubt, Pennsylvania voters, and indeed the nation, saw firsthand that he is not capable of being a U.S. senator.

A condition of the debate was the allowance of a closed-captioning system to accommodate Fetterman's cognitive impairments. The moderators were transparent about the system, but the system couldn't help Fetterman articulate his positions clearly—at all.

From the beginning, it was clear that this was going to be a rough night for Fetterman, who opened up the debate by announcing, "Hi, goodnight, everybody."

It got worse from there. "Hi, goodnight, everybody. I'm running to serve Pennsylvania. He's running to use Pennsylvania. Here's a man that

spent more than \$20 million of his own money to try to buy that seat. I'm also having to talk about something called 'The Oz Rule,' that if he's on TV, he's lying. He did that during his career on his TV show. He's done that during his campaign about lying about... our record here," Fetterman said, struggling to find the right words. "And he's also lying probably during this debate. And let's also talk about the elephant in the room. I had a stroke. He's never let me forget that. And I might miss some words during this debate, mush two words together, but it knocked me down, but I'm going to keep coming back up. And this campaign is all about, to me, is about fighting for everyone in Pennsylvania that ever got knocked down, that needs to get back up, and fighting for all forgotten communities all across Pennsylvania that also got knocked down that needs to keep get back up."

Fetterman on Dr. Oz:

"He's never let me forget" that he had a stroke. [2]pic.twitter.com/jec05LZL0M

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) [3]October 26, 2022

But answering questions was where he really struggled.

"We all have to make sure that everyone that works is able to," he said. "That's—that's the most American bargain, that if you work full time, you should be able to live in dignity as well true."

Are you following? It gets worse.

"And I believe they haven't have any businusses being being. You can't have businesses being subsidized by not paying... individuals that

just simply can't have anyone [sic] to pay their own way."

FETTERMAN: "We all have to make sure that everyone that works is able to, that's the most American bargain...you should be able to live in dignity as well true." [4]pic.twitter.com/8A2po4akGj

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) [5]October 26, 2022

Other times, he seemingly blanked when asked to clarify his positions, such as his past opposition to fracking in 2018 versus his alleged support of it now.

Fetterman just melts down after a long pause when confronted about his flip flopping on fracking. [6]pic.twitter.com/ceGtuNt61j

— Julio Rosas (@Julio_Rosas11) [7]October 26, 2022

Fetterman ought to have been prepared for a question about his refusal to release his medical records, and he botched that response as well.

Mod: "Why haven't you released your medical records?"

Fetterman: "My doctors believe I am ready to be served."

Mod: "Why won't you release the records?"

Fetterman: "My doctor believes I am fit to be serving and I believe that is where I am standing." [8]pic.twitter.com/kTH88tPH0Q

— Greg Price (@greg_price11) [9]October 26, 2022

When Dr. Oz brought up the incident where Fetterman chased down an unarmed black man, Fetterman also failed to respond in a meaningful way.

OZ: "Why haven't you apologized to that unarmed, innocent black man, who you put a shotgun to his chest?"

FETTERMAN: "I made the opportunity to defend our community as the chief law enforcement officer there." [10]pic.twitter.com/5BBEGW2WPH

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) [11]October 26, 2022

It was cringeworthy to see Fetterman unable to articulate a simple position, like what he would do about the rising cost of tuition. When asked, he replied, "I just believe. I just, making it that much. It-it-it costs too much. And I believe providing the resources to reduce the tuition allow families to be able to afford it."

"How exactly...do you propose doing that, to make it more affordable for families?"

FETTERMAN: "I just believe. I just, making it that much. It costs too much." [12]pic.twitter.com/l8jtvGT7wf

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) [13]October 26, 2022

What does that even mean? Not much.

In the end, this was unlike any other debate I've ever seen. It was abundantly clear that John Fetterman's cognitive impairment was an obstacle he couldn't overcome. Despite the accommodations made for him, it was questionable whether he could comprehend speech, and he clearly couldn't even speak coherently most of the time. In contrast, Dr. Oz was polished, no doubt benefiting from his years of experience as a television personality, but he was articulate when it came to discussing the issues. I can't imagine that even Democrat voters who watched that debate felt confident that Fetterman can do the job.

I hadn't seen Dr. Oz in action before Tuesday night, and I honestly didn't think much of him before. After seeing his performance and his knowledge of the issues, I feel significantly better about his candidacy now.

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1. <https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/matt-margolis/2022/10/24/fetterman-campaign-already-concedes-defeat-in-tonights-debate-against-oz-n1639545>
 2. <https://t.co/jec05LZLOM>
 3. https://twitter.com/townhallcom/status/1585060723079929856?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 4. <https://t.co/8A2po4akGj>
 5. https://twitter.com/townhallcom/status/1585062931427135488?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 6. <https://t.co/ceGtuNt61J>
 7. https://twitter.com/Julio_Rosas11/status/1585066875310198789?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 8. <https://t.co/kTH88tPHOQ>
 9. https://twitter.com/greg_price11/status/1585065946510594048?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 10. <https://t.co/5BBEGW2WPH>
 11. https://twitter.com/townhallcom/status/1585070175787028480?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 12. <https://t.co/l8jtvgt7wf>
 13. https://twitter.com/townhallcom/status/1585071824635060224?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
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1.3 November

1.3.1 Disinformation Is Democracy (2022-11-01 20:02)

Paul Pelosi's bizarre battle with a hammer-wielding, tighty-whitey bedecked foe, boasting a tawdry history befitting any ANTIFA clown, provides yet another insight into the degeneracy of the legacy media and of every progressive troll circling the septic hole that is American liberalism.

Musk has waded hip deep into the frothing spume that is Twitter and dared to contradict the ever evolving narrative about Paul Pelosi and his nocturnal visitor who he called "David," during the 911 call, and described the degenerate as a "friend."

It may be a far more common occurrence than I imagine, but I've never been in the position of having a deranged "friend" break into my home, stripped to his sagging Hanes, to prance through my halls flailing a hammer. Rest assured, my response to a farce on that order would be a volley of 12 gauge slugs. Of course, Paul, being the dutiful progressive, eschewed the use of the immoral tool — a firearm. Instead, he opted to grapple with his nearly nude foe and received a fractured skull for his trouble.

Reality, having an ironic sense of humor, has provided another cautionary tale for those who preach impotence. Violence can and does come from any quarter and most often unexpectedly. Criminals will always avail themselves of weapons and only a fool cedes the advantage to the evildoer.

And, even the Speaker's consort, ensconced in his lavish home isn't safe from his perverse associations though guarded by privilege, wealth, and power. Paul's wife is third in line to the presidency, so what does that mean for the rest of us when he can be mauled by a fleshy assailant — the police watching at the door? They don't want your guns

because you're a threat to other citizens. They want your guns because they're tools of power, and they cannot abide power that does not emanate from them. The real objective of gun-grabbing democrats is a monopoly on violence — not its eradication.

In any case, for the Pelosis, when it rains it pours. Just a few weeks ago, Paul was arrested and charged with a DUI — a crime of some moral turpitude. This latest episode looks more like a crack in the facade that is the Pelosi household. Corrupt people are often perverse and the Pelosi's have made tens of millions trading equities on information not widely available to the general public. For most people, this would be classified and prosecuted as insider trading. The Pelosis are typical of progressives who lie and grift to fill their treasure chests, legislating an iron-fisted statism that ensures their own dynasty.

In the midst of all this Pelosi debauchery, Musk issued a tweet that linked to a blog post about the break-in that was ridiculed as false. Musk deleted the tweet, and, so what? The statist media machine fired the boilers and flew into full outrage, sputtering about the end of democracy — because, “disinformation.”

As if “disinformation” were the real threat compared to the house of ill repute that is the Pelosi's residence, and the corrosive influence of the Pelosi ethic. The Pelosis, and every Democrat like them, are existential threats to our democracy. Disinformation is simply a byproduct of the free marketplace of ideas, which forms the bedrock of a democratic republic. The demonization of disinformation is actually an infantilization of the American citizenry. It's become a euphemism for any thought that threatens the Democrat narrative.

False information is the purview of statist Democrats, and disinformation is simply a mechanism of control, categorizing competing ideas as verboten. Free speech demands that the government and its surrogates abstain from any action that limits its expression. The First Amendment is explicit on this point. Free speech is so important that

even speech that is antithetical to the principles of our democratic republic should be given free reign in public discourse. The people should be the ultimate arbiters of speech, and any superseding government, corporation, or media that usurps this power is de facto fascist.

Totalitarians censor. Those who lust for power censor. Those who shriek about disinformation are attempting to abridge your civil rights and should be met with the full force of public ire and sanction of the law.

“If you don’t want a house built, hide the nails and wood. If you don’t want a man unhappy politically, don’t give him two sides to a question to worry him; give him one. Better yet, give him none.” — Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

Any media outlet, commentator, talking head, politician, tech oligarch, or government apparatchik that militates about “disinformation” should be viewed with great suspicion. It is almost a certainty they are trying to “hide the nails and wood.” Public discourse is critically important, especially as we near the mid-term election cycle. The forces of oppression are frantically working to suppress information and undermine the efficacy of the franchise.

It’s important to know what the Pelosi’s are really up to, and who they really are. We allow deceivers to lead our country to our own peril. The lie is always on the side of evil, and evil ever seeks to expand its kingdom of slaves. Look around and vote for the truth-tellers. In my opinion, though Republicans are far from ideal, they’re far better than any Democrat who has aligned with the party of the lie.

1.3.2 ‘Save Our Democracy’ Is the New ‘Russia Collusion’ (2022-11-01 20:03)

At this point, it would save everyone time if Democrats could simply point to a policy agenda item that isn't going to save democracy — if such a thing exists.

If Republicans vote, they are killing democracy. If they don't vote, they are killing democracy. The only way to “save democracy,” writes The Washington Post's Max Boot, is to empower one-party rule — a position that probably sounds counterintuitive to anyone with a middle-school education. “Now you need to vote to save democracy once again,” contends President Joe Biden, or we will lose our “fundamental rights and freedoms like the right to choose, the right to privacy, the right to vote — our very democracy.”

Chilling stuff. But it doesn't end there. You will remember that by failing to “reform” the filibuster, which would entail authorizing the thinnest of fleeting majorities to shove through massive generational “reforms” without any national consensus or debate, we are also killing democracy. This has been the position not only of left-wing pundits and The New York Times editorial board but also senators tasked with defending their institution. I wonder if they will support this democracy-saving fix next session, as well?

Then again, if we don't nationalize the economy to avert a climate crisis, we are also killing democracy. “We've got to save democracy to save our species,” Jamie Raskin explains. And if we don't empty the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to temporarily keep gas prices low to help Democrats win in 2022, we are killing democracy. “We find ourselves in a situation where keeping gas prices low is key to preserving and strengthening the future of our democracy,” MSNBC's Chris Hayes says.

We must allow the president to unilaterally create trillion-dollar spending bills and break existing private sector contracts by fiat. For democracy. We must pack the court to “save democracy.” We must create a Ministry of Truth to help with “strengthening democratic institutions.”

We must vote for a Pennsylvania candidate who can't cobble two consecutive coherent sentences together because the "fate of our democracy" is at stake, says our former President Barack Obama.

If the Supreme Court empowers the public to vote on an issue like abortion, unmentioned anywhere in the Constitution, it is "degrading" our "democracy." If the court protects rights that are explicitly mentioned in the Constitution from the vagaries of the political process, it is also undermining democracy — which is convenient.

The only way to save democracy is to allow one party (guess which one?) to federalize elections so they can compel states to count mail-in votes that arrive 10 days late, legalize ballot harvesting, force the overturning of dozens of existing voter ID laws, allow felons to vote, create onerous burdens to chill speech, and empower bureaucrats to redraw congressional districts. Otherwise ... well, you know.

You'll remember last year when left-wingers were arguing that Mike Pence's support for basic voting ID — backed by around 80 % of the American public and implemented in virtually every free nation — heralded a "permanent authoritarian rule." The president called Georgia's moderate voter law "odious," "pernicious," "vicious," "unconscionable," a "subversion" and "suppression," the "21st-century Jim Crow" and the sure sign of an emerging "autocracy." In 2022, early voting in Georgia is "shattering records."

Then, of course, there are the nefarious "election deniers." You know, "The Big Lie"? If Democrats believed "election denial" was an existential threat to American "democracy," they probably wouldn't be perennially engaging in it. The American left hasn't accepted the legitimacy of a Republican presidential election win since 1988. Democrats "save democracy" by pumping millions into the primary campaigns of "election-denying" Republicans to try and set up a more favorable general election.

Just this week, Hillary Clinton, one of numerous prominent Democrats who wouldn't accept the legitimacy of the 2016 presidential election, claimed that "right-wing extremists already have a plan to steal the next presidential election." This is the kind of preemptive election denialism Democrats have been engaged in for nearly two decades. Democrats don't lose elections; they are victims of gerrymandering or voter suppression or "structural" problems or too much free speech or Fox News or Russian gremlins.

Beginning in 2016, the Democratic Party descended into the politics of hysterics. It began with a mind-bending tale of a second-rate power stealing our democracy with a few Facebook ads and a Manchurian candidate. The collective psychotic break that followed was bolstered by unethical political media and a corrupt investigation into the president that was predicated on an opposition-research document filled with fiction, distortions, and Russian disinformation. Democrats wanted to cripple the president. They succeeded.

Since then, a large swath of the left has become so reliant on infantile fearmongering that they seem incapable of debating any issues or dealing with the reality of an opposition party. When they're not slandering political opponents as (semi-) fascists or racists or misogynists or homophobes or transphobes or death cultists, they're engaging in cloistered pseudointellectual debate-club discussions on "saving democracy."

Democrats, who have spent years delegitimizing the Supreme Court and rule of law, undermining legislative norms, cheering on unprecedented and blatant executive abuses, and using the DOJ to target their political enemies, among other "democracy"-destroying behaviors, do not occupy any high moral ground. And while "democracy" was once just a transparently silly euphemism for "stuff we want," it has since evolved into a rhetorical device that denotes a decisively illiberal mindset.

1.3.3 Job termination is a conspiracy. (2022-11-04 13:07)

I was in communism in my childhood. In Boy Scouts, they had Axel honneth and Jurgen Habermas in boy scouts. I wasn't a Missouri Lutheran, I was in the ELCA my entire life with woman pastors. Critical Theory was in Catholic Churches too. So this David Speath was stealing people's jobs at Laptop Chips through his career exploration program he earned in the military. I found out that three Speaths working at Laptop Chips and David Speath left Laptop Chips a year later. There was also this conspiracy around Syd Berret. My manager told me that Aaron operates the warehouse like a prison, and that other manager has animal logins from Pink Floyd Animals album. The employees were wearing Vietnam flag, Dragon Ball Z and Dark Side of the Moon T-shirts. I took a ASVAB test in River Falls and, I had a 4 year college degree. The employer backstabber me after I talked to him after work every week chitchating by laying me off anyways. Communication problems is bullcrap. I was working constantly at laptop chips. The employees would go to Subway, and return when I started lunch break. Employees didn't eat together. Very long So I was worried about 5 year plans in 2019 in Wisconsin, before everybody in Wisconsin wanted Tony Evers and Joe Biden, right? Before that, Wisconsin wanted Bernie Sanders. I send my resume online at other companies, and they didn't want me and I had 8 jobs in my life. The internships don't keep me for 3 months. I worked at a software company and hospital. The hospital said they didn't have spare money for another employee, because they screwed up their project. The software company, I finished everything and was replaced by a military, because of nepotism. The software company wasn't ethical, they hire Indian, and Chicom programmers. This serviceman was related to the CEO of the software company. Then I find recruiters who cold call while in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and they pick other people mainly because they wanted me to work on the coasts or Texas.

1.3.4 How Bad Will the Shellacking Be? (2022-11-04 13:08)

The Democratic Party is, historically, in trouble in the midterm elections next week. Not only does the party in power nearly always lose seats in the midterms, but usually not even a popular president can save them. An unpopular president will nearly always cause his party to be trounced. Let's go back to the 1930s and see what generally occurs.

The Great Depression hit the country in 1929. Republican Herbert Hoover was the president that year, and even though he really had nothing to do with the coming of the Depression (his response to it was

horrific, though), still, he was president, so the Republicans suffered. In 1930, they lost 52 seats in the House and eight in the Senate. Since Hoover's response to the Depression only made it worse, not only did he lose the presidency to Franklin Roosevelt in 1932 by a huge margin, but the Republicans lost 101 more seats in the House and 12 more in the Senate. After that, except for 1946 and 1952, the Democrats controlled the House of Representatives consistently until 1994.

FDR was probably the greatest politician in American history. That isn't intended to be a compliment. My point here is, he was a masterful coalition-builder, able to buy votes more successfully than any other politician in our country's history. His policies, domestic and foreign, were, by and large, disastrous (ask Eastern Europe), but he was the consummate "Teflon" president and won the presidency four times. The strain finally killed him in 1945.

For all the fake history that teaches Roosevelt "got us out of the Depression," this is simply not true, and the country knew it at the time. In 1937, unemployment, which had never been less than 12 percent under Roosevelt, dipped back to 20 percent, and in the 1938 midterms, the Democrats lost 81 seats in the House and seven in the Senate. In 1942, after FDR had won an unprecedented third term as president, the Democrats still lost 46 seats in the House and nine in the Senate. After FDR's death, Harry Truman didn't do any better: -45 in the House in 1946, and -12 in the Senate (the Dems lost 29 and six in 1950). Even the popular Dwight Eisenhower couldn't stop this kind of bleeding. While he lost "only" 18 House seats and one Senate position in 1954, it was 48 and 13 in 1958. Lyndon Johnson and the Democrats lost 47 House seats in 1966. Gerald Ford and the Republicans lost 48 in 1974 after Watergate and the Nixon resignation (it's amazing it wasn't worse). And on and on it goes.

Since 1938, there have only been two instances when the party who occupied the presidency gained seats in the House of Representatives. (It has happened five times in the Senate, including 2018 when the Republicans under Trump gained two Senate seats. We always must remember, in Senate races, how many seats from each party need defending.) In 1998, the Democrats under Bill Clinton gained five House seats, though the Senate composition remained the same. Interestingly, this was after the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke. In 1994, Clinton lost

52 Democrats in the House, giving the Republicans their first majority in that body in 42 years. Democrats lost eight seats in the Senate that year.

The only other time since 1938 the sitting president's party gained House seats was 2002 under George W. Bush. The Republicans gained eight House seats and two Senate seats that year (Bush lost 30 and 6 respectively in 2006). Barack Obama lost 63 and six in 2010 and won re-election in 2012. In 2014, the Democrats lost 13 and nine. Trump lost 40 House seats in 2018, but, as noted, gained two Senate seats. The party in power, regardless of the popularity (or lack thereof) of the sitting president, nearly always loses seats. Even Ronald Reagan, in two midterm elections, lost 31 seats in the House and seven in the Senate. The fickle voters.

What does all this mean? Well, maybe a few things.

1. Absolutely nothing. What happened in the past can give us some hints (and hopes) for what might happen in the future. But history does not control the future and can't tell us what will happen. Nobody, not even Mr. History, knows what will come to pass on November 8, 2022.

2. But there are those suggestive "hints." IF, a mighty big IF, the "trend" of history continues next week, the Democrats will lose. How big will they lose? That is impossible to determine exactly. Joe Biden isn't very well-liked outside of Washington, D.C., New York, and California, and that always signals losses for his party. But it can't tell us how many. If any.

3. Don't forget there's always the possibility of funny business in the election. Could voter fraud sway a few seats? Probably, but not enough to save the House for Democrats. Several Senate races are tight and still could go either way.

History favors the Republicans, but history is what happened, not what WILL happen.

1.3.5 High IQs and Bad People (2022-11-04 13:08)

Harvard University has a Kennedy School of Government whose primary intent is to prepare people for some aspect of public (government) service. I suspect everybody who attends that school has a high IQ, and there is nothing wrong with that. But having a high IQ and lots of training doesn't necessarily make you smart. And more importantly, it doesn't make you a good person or better than other people, though liberals seem to think it does.

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George Washington was a farmer who also served as a military and political leader. He didn't go to Harvard, but he was pretty good at guiding men, and not a bad President. Of course, we live in a far more complex world now, and I'm not opposed to people studying public policy, international relations, foreign languages, etc. etc. to better prepare themselves for serving mankind. But unless a school teaches the fundamentals of what American students and society really need—the difference between right and wrong, how to save money, how to be truly color blind, the value of human life, that they work for the United States of America, not Mexico, Venezuela, or Communist China—then all their expensive “public policy” education is self-aggrandizement and isn't worth much to the people they are supposed to serve.

Knowledge is not virtue. Knowledge is in the head, virtue comes out of the heart. Good leaders don't need to have high IQs; they need to be good people.

The most important elements, by far, of the training needed to do government (or any other kind of) service is moral training—virtue. Yes, we need computer specialists, language specialists, etc. etc. But regardless of how much “specialist” preparation a person has, if that person is inwardly rotten, they are going to do a rotten job for the country, and the people will have difficulty overcoming it. Joe Biden is a horrible President not just because he isn't very intelligent and has become senile. He is a horrible President because he is a rotten person, without

a scintilla of moral virtue inside him. He cares first, foremost, and only about himself and retaining the power and authority over others of which he is totally unworthy as a human being. In other words, he is the exact OPPOSITE of the quality of person who should do his job. Hence, his utter, and lifelong, failure.

Democrats and liberals are attracted to government because government has power over others and can certainly sway a country in one direction or another. They believe, maybe even sincerely, that they know better how to run your life than you do (they went to “Hahvahd”, remember?). Thus, if we will give them the power and opportunity they believe they deserve to have, and if the opposition is suppressed, then they possess the intelligence, foresight, and ability to truly create a paradise on earth. Such a “paradise” would be socialism because individual freedom is the exact opposite of that system, of their belief in their wisdom to direct and control mankind. The word “virtue” is probably not even in their dictionary. They are omniscient, and so brilliant they can even control nature. Now, some of them probably know better than to believe all this baloney and are only in it for personal glory. But I have no doubt the idealists exist, in huge numbers.

This “vision” of theirs is why they hate Donald Trump (and you) so much. He, more than anyone else, is perceived to be standing in their way, and he represents the exact opposite of everything they believe in. They are God, here to give the rest of us heaven on earth. Trump is the devil, the total reverse of everything they hold dear and believe to be holy, just, righteous, and good. He MUST be destroyed, by any means possible fair or foul, and after he is, the next bogeyman (DeSatan?) will have to be obliterated as well. It is a civil war for power to them, and will only end with their total dominance, and the total destruction of their enemies. They are right and you are wrong. It is that simple. It is Hitlerism to a “T”.

And you are not only wrong, you are evil and deserve only to be submissive, or eradicated from the face of the earth.

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Of course, some of the above (not all) is exactly what conservatives believe about them. The difference is, we know that human imperfections—and they are legion—can never and will never produce a Golden Age of Perfection on earth. Heaven is on the other side of the grave, not here. Liberals don't believe in a spiritual heaven, so it must be created on earth—by them. But, to conservatives, the best that can be hoped for is to diligently train people in virtuous, humble selflessness. Societies must try to produce the most excellent people possible. This will limit the need for, and dangers of, government tyranny. The warnings are numerous:

“Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely.” (Lord Acton)

“Power gradually extirpates for [eliminates from] the mind every humane and gentle virtue.” (Edmund Burke)

“The truth is that all men having power ought to be mistrusted.” (James Madison)

To the men who founded America, no one is born with a right to rule others. This was the American Revolution. It is the antithesis of modern Leftism, and why they hate America's Founders so profoundly. The Left believes they DO deserve to rule others because of their superior intellectual and moral status. (They went to Harvard....) And woe to the hundreds of millions of peasants who have, continue to, and will continue to stand in the way until the Left has the absolute supremacy it craves.

They are only trying to give you heaven on earth, you rednecks. And they will kill you if you don't want it.

1.3.6 Warning! Crime Deniers on the Ballot in All 50 States! (2022-11-04 13:09)

Next Tuesday, voters, please remember that Democrats will never run out of excuses for criminals. They drone on about “racism,” “root causes,” “poverty,” “drug addiction,” “his gun dropped,” “mental illness,” “learning disabilities,” “he made a mistake” and “prison doesn't work”!

It's not the government's job to probe criminals' psyches. These are predators, monsters, feral beasts attacking civilization, with no regard for your property, bodily integrity or life. The government's only job is to keep them away from us, not to ensure that they have fulfilling lives.

At the New York gubernatorial [1]debate last week, feisty Republican challenger Rep. Lee Zeldin hit Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, hard on the crime wave engulfing New York. Finally, he said, "We're halfway through the debate, she still hasn't talked about locking up anyone committing any crimes."

In a city where citizens are afraid to leave their homes because of crime, Hochul's blithe response made headlines. She said: "I don't know why that's so important to you."

Her unfathomably out-of-touch reply was so infuriating, viewers might have missed the first part of her answer: "Anyone who commits a crime under our laws, especially with the change we made to bail, *has consequences*."

"Has consequences." Take note, New Yorkers! She did *not* say, "will go to jail" or "will be prosecuted" or "will be removed from the streets for the welfare of society."

"Has consequences" is progressive code for "restorative justice." In lieu of actual punishment, the criminal will be required to write a letter to the victim, hug it out or attend a family "mediation." Thus, if a pack of teenagers beat the crap out of your kid at school, he will be forced to sit down with his attackers so they can tell him, *Hey, sorry, man, we thought you dissed us*.

One of the major drivers of New York's unprecedented increase in crime is the "no bail" law — meaning "no jail." The same predators are arrested over and over again but can never be put in jail, thanks to the Democrats.

Apart from their overriding objective of keeping "black bodies" out of jail — as opposed to, say, protecting the white and black bodies of their victims — the Democrats' argument for never jailing arrestees is that bail "discriminates" against the poor, who can't afford to pay. First, show me the rich person mugging New Yorkers or shoving commuters in front of subway trains.

Second, we're lucky when we can even catch one of these monsters. And, if caught, the vast majority of guilty criminals will never spend a day in prison. Only about [2]30 % of those arrested for a violent crime go to prison — and those were the statistics *before* Soros-backed district attorneys started releasing criminals all over the country. Those were the statistics *before* the racial reckoning.

Another fantastic Democratic idea for reducing crime is to deploy "violence interrupters," i.e. otherwise difficult-to-employ ex-cons who get a nice social work job from the city. Or to fund endless "mental health" services, the sole purpose of which is to create more useless government jobs for Victim Studies majors from Bard College.

Look, if some idiot wants to counsel rapists and muggers in prison — fantastic! They can volunteer. But the counseling needs to take place behind prison walls, where their clients belong.

Though I think it's kind of important to mention that there is no evidence that "mental health" counseling has ever worked. The New York Times [3]admitted as much in an uncharacteristic burst of honesty in 1983: "Dozens of studies ... have found that rehabilitation programs in prison have failed,

that there is no reliable way of telling whether a prisoner has reformed and that many released early commit new crimes.”

No matter what they call it, liberals have been pushing their anything-but-prison plans forever.

Here are some Times headlines from as far back as the 1980s:

[4]1982:

“According to a recent Rand Corporation study, [putting fewer criminals in prison] could reduce both the prison population and the crime rate.”

[5]1987:

“After years of increased sentences, and an extraordinary drain on our state’s treasury, we need to acknowledge that longer sentences do not deter most crime.”

[6]1988: “An Answer to Jails Is Reading”

[7]1989: “Prison Can Be a Dumb Solution”

[8]1991: “Alternative to Prison Mends Fences and Lives”

Note that it wasn't until 1994, and the [9]election of Rudolph Giuliani, that crime actually, for the first time, went down. (Giuliani did not follow the Times' advice.)

And leaping ahead to the present, here is the Times in [10]2020: "Can Prosecutors Be Taught To Avoid Jail Sentences?"

(I couldn't help but notice that every one of the writers above was a female. So the good news is, we have no shortage of prison volunteers!)

"Alternatives to prison" never have worked, never will work, and liberals don't care that they don't work. They just don't want criminals in prison.

This is a parlor game of one-upmanship for Democrats:

I'm the most compassionate!

No, I am!

Look — the object of my compassion is way worse than yours! He's a rapist and a murderer!

The purpose of the criminal justice system is to lock up bad guys, not to allow liberals to feel good about themselves. (Least of all is it

to ensure that all ethnicities are incarcerated at the exact same percentages.)

In fact, now that I think about it, separating criminals from the law-abiding is the government's *most* basic responsibility. It's also the only government program where liberals suddenly become [11]hard-nosed fiscal conservatives.

In just this one case, we get detailed breakdowns of the cost of prison. How much do the public schools cost? How about the cost of subsidized housing for able-bodied (but nonworking) Americans? How about food stamps? How about the endless layers of "social workers"?

Democrats can't change and won't change — they can only be defeated at the polls. (Even that's only a start.) If you ever want to leave your home again, without fear of your body or property being violated, vote Republican on Nov. 8.

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1.3.7 Biden Admin Sued Over Withholding Baby Formula Shortage Information (2022-11-04 13:10)

The Biden Administration's Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is being sued by an ethics watchdog for reportedly withholding key information on the baby formula shortage.

According to a complaint, the FTC ignored an August FOIA request from The Functional Government Initiative for records on its investigation into the shortage that affected families all over the country.

“FGI anticipates that officials and staff at FTC discussed and participated in making and implementing decisions about the investigation into the infant formula crisis... the public does not have an ability to easily evaluate the decision-making surrounding FTC’s investigation,” according to the lawsuit.

In May, the director of the National Economic Council Brian Deese admitted that the Biden Administration knew about a possible baby formula shortage months before it happened.

However, in a September report, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) blamed the shortage on a manufacturing problem at the Abbott Nutrition plant in Michigan.

Earlier this week, it was reported that one third of households are still struggling to get baby formula nearly a year after the crisis began.

Recommended

According to the Census Bureau’s House hold Pulse survey, 20 percent of families are still struggling to find a week’s worth of formula.

Roughly 18 percent of powdered formula was out of stock in September, which is down from a 30 percent high in July.

Market research firm IRI says that typical out-of-stock rates for food is about 5 percent and that anything above 10 percent is problematic.

The Biden Administration did not do a single thing for four months after a whistleblower sent a report to the FDA alleging unsafe and unsanitary working conditions at the Michigan facility.

It wasn't until February 2022 that the FDA initiated a shut down of the plant, causing a nationwide panic and shortage of formula.

1.3.8 5 Places Where World War III Could Erupt in 2022 (2022-11-06 19:17)

Entering 2022, the world looks more dangerous than it has at any time since the late 1980s. Real conflicts of interest in [1]Eastern Europe and the East China Sea have set the table for the first [2]serious great-power conflict in decades. Crises in the [3]Middle East, Northeast Asia, and the Himalayas continue to smolder.

Here are the five most dangerous flashpoints for the eruption of World War III, in descending order of peril:

Ukraine

Easily the most likely flashpoint for great power war in 2022 lies along the border between Russia and Ukraine.

Over the past six months, Russia has steadily built up forces along the frontier as Kyiv, Moscow, and Washington have traded barbs. Russia's immediate concerns involve the Ukrainian acquisition and use of Turkish drones along its border regions, along with a general increase in Ukrainian military power. Moscow's long-range problem is its inability to reverse the Western orientation that Kyiv has adopted since 2014.

Russia has publicly argued that it wants to resolve the issues of [4]Ukraine and of Russia's relationship with [5]NATO on a permanent basis. The United States and NATO have not responded positively to these overtures, but have notably failed to guarantee [6]Ukraine's security. If Russia launches an invasion of Ukraine things could get ugly quickly. Despite [7]improvements in Ukrainian forces, most analysts expect that Russia would win quick victories along the border, potentially gaining access to the Ukrainian heartland.

Direct Russian military action would put immense pressure on the United States to respond in some fashion. However, the [8]US can support Kyiv in several ways without direct intervention. This includes [9]economic sanctions against Russia, cyberattacks against Russian infrastructure, the [10]transfer of weapons to Ukraine, and the sharing of real-time intelligence with Ukrainian forces. The use of any of these tools, especially if they show some success on the ground, could lead to a confrontation between Moscow and Washington.

Taiwan

Over the past year, long-simmering US concern over the Chinese threat to Taiwan has seemed to come to a boil.

[11]Chinese military capabilities have grown rapidly over the past decade, and now constitute a major obstacle against US intervention. At the same time, China's military remains untested, and an amphibious assault across the [12]Taiwan Strait would constitute one of the most sophisticated military operations in history.

The potential for miscalculation is immense. The United States maintained a studied ambiguity towards Taiwan for the past forty years as it developed a strong economic relationship with the People's Republic of China. This "strategic ambiguity" was designed to remove the incentive for [13]Taiwan to declare independence while not giving China an excuse to invade. Some in Congress have now called for an end to this policy, and for more full-throated support of Taiwan's international position.

A war could begin in several different ways. China could launch a "bolt from the blue" attack designed to catch US and Taiwanese forces unawares. Alternatively, tensions in other aspects of the US-China relationship might convince Beijing of the likelihood of a change in the US stance towards Taiwan, leading to a pre-emptive attack. Finally (and least likely) Taiwan might attempt to make its independence an accomplished fact, which most analysts believe would incur [14]Chinese military intervention.

In any eventuality, escalation would be difficult for either side to

manage, and a fight over access to Taiwan could quickly degenerate into a [15]general war.

Iran

Any honest appraisal of US policy towards Iran now recognizes that then-[16]President Donald Trump's decision to abandon the [17]Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action ([18]JCPOA), better known as the Iran Nuclear Deal, was a disastrous mistake.

The US effort to increase military and economic coercion against Iran has failed. Iran has stepped up its nuclear efforts while improving the sophistication of its [19]missile forces and increasing its covert activities across the region.

Negotiations have thus far failed to restore the status quo, as the United States has stumbled over its inability to commit and Tehran has taken a tough attitude. If negotiations fail to bring Iran into some kind of a deal, the threat of military action lurks in the background. While the Biden administration doesn't seem excited about the prospect of war, US allies in Riyadh and Jerusalem could try to trigger a confrontation. Similarly, if Iran comes to believe an attack is inevitable, it could pre-empt with all the tools it has available. Iran lacks committed great power backing, but a conflict in the Middle East could open opportunities elsewhere for [20]Russia and China.

North Korea

The [21]North Korea front has gone [22]quiet over the last couple of years, as the DPRK has struggled too much with the covid pandemic to bother making much trouble internationally.

Japan, South Korea, and the United States have similarly been happy to let sleeping dogs lie, focusing on bigger international and domestic problems rather than trying to cut through the apparently intractable Korean situation.

To the extent that North Korea has made the headlines the news largely seems to be positive, with the US and Seoul coming to a mutual understanding on the prospects for a [23]formal end to the [24]Korean War.

And yet... the problem of North Korea remains unresolved. It is not a failed state but it faces enormous economic, social, and political problems. Historically, Pyongyang has used external belligerence to attract international attention and force a resolution of its concerns. While North Korea has not tested a nuclear weapon in several years, a resumption of testing, combined with additional tests of its missile arsenal, could erase much of the calm that has ensued over the past few years.

Himalayas

Tensions between China and [25]India have mellowed over the past year, but we should not forget that the border between the two countries witnessed lethal confrontations over the past two years.

India and China have worked hard to reduce tensions along the border, but basic disagreements over territory and disposition remain. Both countries have continued to build up infrastructure in the region that could support rapid military mobilization.

Neither Beijing nor Delhi seem particularly interested in throwing down over control of remote mountain regions. But it is not difficult to envision renewed skirmishes that then draw in other problematic aspects of their relationship. Although China enjoys considerable military superiority, some trends appear to favor India. The burgeoning technological relationship between Delhi and Washington is a source of concern for Beijing, especially given the newfound willingness of the United States to engage in long-term technological agreements such as [26]AUKUS. If China comes to understand renewed tension along the border as part of a general encirclement strategy rather than as a bilateral problem with India, it might become more willing to take serious risks to resolve the situation.

World War III in 2022?

The Covid pandemic has demanded much of the world's attention over the past two years. This hasn't stopped geopolitics in its tracks, but it certainly has redirected the priorities of global leaders. The pandemic isn't over, but it is becoming part of the background noise of international politics, and great powers are recalibrating and reasserting their interests. We shouldn't expect great power war in 2022, but we should always be aware of the potential for things to get out of hand. Most importantly, we should take care to consider that the conflicts above are interactive and interdependent. If war breaks out with Iran, it affects decision-making over the whole world.

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26. <https://www.19fortyfive.com/2021/11/how-australia-plans-to-use-its-new-nuclear-powered-submarines/>

1.3.9 CNN Admits Biden Has Told Several Lies While Campaigning For Dems (2022-11-06 19:20)

While campaigning for Democrats in key states ahead of Tuesday's midterm elections, President Joe Biden has been caught red-handed lying about several things.

According to [1]CNN, Biden has made several "false or misleading statements," all while attacking Republicans.

The first lie Biden was fact-checked on, was his claim that former President Trump's 2017 tax cuts only benefited the top one percent. However, not only did the top one percent benefit from the tax break, but middle class Americans also received a significant break from Trump's legislation.

Biden also claimed that on his watch "for the first time in 10 years, seniors are getting an increase in their Social Security checks."

However, the left-wing outlet called out Biden's lie, stating that "in reality," there has been a cost of living increase every year since 2017 and onward, including an increase between the years 2012 and 2015 as well.

As with the debt and deficit, CNN pointed out two major problems with Biden's claims regarding the federal debt.

According to Biden, he "reduced the federal deficit this year by \$1 trillion \$400 billion. One trillion 400 billion dollars. The most in all American history. No one has ever reduced the debt that much. We cut the federal debt in half."

CNN noted that this is just not true.

In October, the U.S. national debt soared past \$31 trillion for the first time, catching Biden in yet another lie.

"It's highly questionable how much credit Biden deserves for even the reduction in the deficit," the liberal outlet said.

“Biden

doesn't mention that the primary reason the deficit plummeted in fiscal years 2021 and 2022 was that it had skyrocketed to a record high in 2020 because of emergency pandemic relief spending. It then fell as expected as the spending expired as planned,” CNN points out.

It's

bad when even the few that are left still rooting for Biden can't even hide his mistakes and lies. However, it is about time the president was fact-checked and called out for his repeated false statements.

1. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/05/politics/fact-check-biden-midterms-2022>

1.3.10 What the Bible Says About Tax Collectors (2022-11-06 19:23)

Thanks for joining our study about tax collectors in the Bible. Let's begin with a musical introduction — a [1]famous song about this profession.

From

the Beatles to the Bible, today we focus on the relationship between Jesus and tax collectors. The enemies of Jesus (and even his friends) were critical of how He befriended fellow Jews who were considered traitorous — whose jobs were to squeeze money out of their community on behalf of the Roman authorities. In the process, many tax collectors were corrupt and enriched themselves.

With all that in mind, we examine “The Calling of Matthew” — my NIV Study Bible's subtitle for this multi-faceted story where Jesus proclaims a significant aspect of His earthly ministry.

In the book of [2]Matthew 9:1-8

immediately before Jesus met Matthew, Jesus healed a paralytic man. But unstated in the passages that follow is whether or not Matthew saw or heard about this miracle:

“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. ‘Follow me,’ he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him” [3](Matthew 9:9).

Unanswered

is “Why Matthew obeyed Jesus with no hesitation?” Perhaps Matthew had heard about the paralytic's miraculous healing while “sitting at the tax collector's booth” and was moved by the Spirit. Maybe, Matthew thought, “Take this job and shove it.” Or, “I am destined to write a self-named first chapter of the world's bestselling book, and Jesus is my agent.” Whatever Matthew's reason for obedience, the next verses read:

“While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’” [4](Matthew 9:10-11).

Later, upon hearing that question posed by his disciples, Jesus brilliantly answered:

“‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners” [5](Matthew 9:12-13).

However, on the cross, Jesus, the Lamb of God, sacrificed Himself for the forgiveness of our sins and those of the world.

We know Matthew — a hated tax collector in need of what Jesus was offering, became one of His 12 disciples — an example of transformation through forgiveness. Also note that in addition to the book of Matthew, this foundational lesson appears in [6]Mark 2:13-17 and [7]Luke 5:27-31. And in both gospels, Matthew is referred to as “Levi,” his given Hebrew name.

Now we jump to another inspiring [8]tax collector story found only in Luke’s gospel. The story begins when crowds gather as Jesus passes through Jericho. There, a short man named Zacchaeus, unable to see over the masses, climbed a tree to gain a better view. Although Zacchaeus was short in stature, he was tall when he stood on his riches earned from his job as chief tax collector. Jesus sees Zacchaeus in the tree and says:

“‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter [about Jesus] ‘He has gone to be the guest of a sinner’” [9](Luke 19: 5-7).

Immediately

we read that Zacchaeus had major guilt about how he made his money. So he was anxious to turn his life around, seek forgiveness, and start anew:

“Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount’” [10](Luke 19:8).

Notice

that Zacchaeus addressed Jesus as “Lord” and quickly admitted his sin. All Jesus did was order Zacchaeus off the tree and invite Himself to the chief tax collector’s house. But Jesus turned Zacchaeus’s actions into a lesson for all sinners:

“Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost’”[11](Luke 19:9-10).

Jesus

and Zacchaeus were perfectly paired for this lesson. First, Jesus announced the respected Abrahamic lineage of the chief tax collector loathed by his community. (Akin to a member of royalty cheating his subjects.)

Second, Jesus calls Himself “the Son of Man” — a title in the Hebrew Bible reserved for the Messiah of which the ancient Jews were very familiar. (See [12]Vol. 53 for more about “Son of Man.”)

Then Jesus tells Zacchaeus (and the crowd) that He forgives sin and “came to seek” and “save the lost.” Remember, because only God can forgive sin, Jesus has revealed His identity.

The term “tax collector” is often used in the [13]New Testament gospels as an example of a shunned man at the lowest rung of society. Thus, if Jesus can associate with tax collectors — forgive and heal their sins — He can easily forgive those who think of themselves as more worthy or hold higher titles.

These two gospel lessons can apply to all modern-day sins. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, can heal and forgive those who believe in Him. About that concept, here is what St. Paul poignantly wrote in 1 Timothy:

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst” [14](1 Timothy 1:15). Those who love Jesus know He is available 24/7. And for those who don’t, you can pray, read His Word, and invite Him into your heart. Jesus already knows who you are and is ready to call you down from your tree

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMdcE8jdz70>
 2. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/passage/?q=matthew+9:1-8>
 3. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/9-9.html>
 4. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/passage/?q=matthew+9:10-11>
 5. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/passage/?q=matthew+9:12-13>
 6. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/mark/passage/?q=mark+2:13-17>
 7. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/passage/?q=luke+5:27-31>
 8. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/passage/?q=luke+19:1-10>
 9. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/passage/?q=luke+19:5-7>
 10. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/19-8.html>
 11. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/passage/?q=luke+19:9-10>
 12. <https://townhall.com/columnists/myrakahnadams/2021/03/21/quick-compelling-bible-study-vol-53-why-jesus-called-himself-son-of-man-n2586579>
 13. https://www.openbible.info/topics/tax_collectors
 14. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-timothy/1-15.html>
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1.3.11 Democracy on the ballot is Marxism-Leninism. (2022-11-08 12:28)

The Democratic Party are talking about Democratic Centralism, not democracy.



[1]

The Democratic Party put the statue here in Seattle.

Don't Vote for the Democratic Party. Vote Republican

1. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/d6/Statue_of_Lenin_Seattle.jpg

1.3.12 Florida Bars DOJ Election Monitors From Polling Places (2022-11-08 12:32)

It's officially Election Day and the Department of Justice, led by Attorney General Merrick Garland, has dispatched a number of election monitors to polling locations across the country.

"The Justice Department announced today its plans to monitor compliance with federal voting rights laws in 64 jurisdictions in 24 states for the Nov. 8, 2022 general election. Since the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Civil Rights Division has regularly

monitored elections in the field in jurisdictions around the country to protect the rights of voters. The Civil Rights Division will also take complaints from the public nationwide regarding possible violations of the federal voting rights laws through its call center. The Civil Rights Division enforces the federal voting rights laws that protect the rights of all citizens to access the ballot," DOJ released in a statement Monday. "For the general election, the Civil Rights Division will monitor for compliance with the federal voting rights laws on Election Day and/or in early voting in 64 jurisdictions."

But the Florida Department of State is barring DOJ election monitors from polling places in the Sunshine State.

"Department of Justice monitors are not permitted under Florida law. Section 102.031(3)(a) of the Florida Statutes lists the people who 'may enter any polling room or polling place.' Department of Justice personnel are not included on the list. Even if they could qualify under 'law enforcement'...absent some evidence concerning the need for federal intrusion, or some federal stature that preempts Florida law, the presence of federal law enforcement inside polling places would be counterproductive and could potentially undermine confidence in the elections," Florida Department of State General Counsel Brad McVay wrote in a letter to DOJ Elections Coordinator John Russ.

The Florida Department of State plans to send its own election monitors to the jurisdictions targeted by DOJ, which include Broward County, Miami-Dade County and Palm Beach County.

“The Department has prepared for this election by strengthening election integrity so Florida voters can remain confident that their ballots will be counted accurately and on time,” Florida Secretary of State and Chief Election Officer Cord Byrd released in a statement Monday. “I have also visited with all 67 of Florida’s Supervisors of Elections and can confidently say that each Supervisor is ready to support their voters and administer a successful election.”

1.3.13 Why Did the Wave Become a Ripple? (2022-11-14 21:44)

If you woke up this morning wondering why the expected red wave of Republican victories had turned out to be but a ripple, you’re not alone. Many pundits expected that the Biden administration’s liberal overreach had gone too far, and the midterm elections would send a message that the Left had gone too far. At this point, chances are that we will continue to have a closely divided House and Senate. The House most likely will be Republican, with a less than expected majority. The Senate is likely to remain equally divided or with one party having but a 51 to 49 seat advantage. How can we explain these unexpected results? Some evidence is emerging.

Abortion may have been an unexpected factor. [1]An extensive exit poll of over 17,000 voters by Edison Research found that the top two issues for Democrat voters were abortion and gun policy in that order. For Republicans, the top two were inflation and immigration. That means that the single biggest factor in the wave turning into ripple may have been the decision by the US Supreme Court reversing *Roe v. Wade*. Even though that decision returned the issue to the states, many voters felt that the decision had outlawed abortions. Abortion gave Democrats a wedge issue to drive for the midterms. Normally, the economy would take precedence, but for some concerned voters, the intrusion of government into a woman’s right to choose was too much to accept. It sent many to the polls who might otherwise have stayed home. They were susceptible to the fear that Republicans controlling both the House and the Senate might outlaw abortion nationally as some states were doing. Kentucky voters rejected a ballot measure aimed at denying any constitutional protections for abortion, sending a message to Republican lawmakers who has already eroded access to the procedure in this deeply red state.

Big government pays off for far too many Americans. Far too many Americans either have government jobs or receive extensive government entitlement funds. A vote for Republicans puts their standard of living in jeopardy. We remain deeply divided as a country by party. Those voting for Democrats don't want smaller government; they receive a lot of money from Democrats. It's understandable in these challenging times. The pandemic has impacted the confidence of citizens. They're seeing inflation impact their standard of living, and they look to government for relief. The Tax Policy Center estimates that 57 % of U.S. households paid no federal income taxes for 2021, up substantially from the 44 % before the pandemic. They have gotten used to free money from government, rent relief in tough times, and the promises of student debt relief. When you get more from government than you put in, you're not sure you want a party in control that commits to ending the entitlements you depend on.

Recommended

It's clear now that Donald Trump is toxic! His victory and first term as president helped set the stage for needed conservative policy changes; he showed that a president could deliver on his promises. But his abrasive comments and personal attacks clearly contributed to Republican midterm losses in this election. Trump's 2020 loss to Biden was not because of his conservative positions. His campaign was focused on demeaning Biden. More than half of Americans hated him so much that they gave the presidency to what we now know is an age-impaired president. In this election, not all of the Trump-endorsed candidates won. He may have endorsed them, but he did not take from his large political war chest to help fund their campaigns. His negative comments about Gov. DeSantis did not hurt the governor, but they did hurt the party. Trump made a difference, but his time has passed if the GOP is to win the future.

Many conservatives laughed at the mainstream media's concern that democracy was in jeopardy with a Republican victory. But unfortunately, most people get no exposure to conservative media. The mainstream media

are in the pocket of the left and that limits most Americans from the knowledge they receive from a clearly biased source. Social media is not much better than mainstream media. Most people use Google to search for information. Google and many of the major social media powerhouses maintain a liberal bias in their search results.

The lack of trust in election results can only grow. Both parties are already prepared to pursue fraud claims. We used to conduct elections in one day with marginal absentee ballots to be counted after that day. Now, we have extended days to vote and are given all the ballots we need to make cheating easier. With many votes are still left uncounted a day after the election, election denying is here to stay for both parties. When you can't trust election results, America is in trouble no matter what party you support.

In short, we remain deeply divided as a country by party. The election of Senator-elect John Fetterman in Pennsylvania proves that voters don't care whether their candidate is impaired. Americans clearly vote by party because they fear the other party. In all honesty, in today's divided America, Republicans would probably do the same. Having power for your side is more important than the effectiveness of any one candidate.

There is some good news for the GOP. The Republicans will likely have a slim margin of control in the House and winning a small majority in the Senate is still possible. Even if the GOP controls only the House, that will be enough to slow leftist policies and give them the power to bring to light investigations the Democrats have refused to even explore, including the Hunter Biden influence peddling.

It's also clear that Republicans can win if they have a strong candidate who can effectively articulate their values. President Trump proved that in 2020, and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis proved that with his twenty percent victory in Florida on Tuesday. If he desires, DeSantis has positioned himself well to run for the presidency in 2024. But for now, we are in for two more years of heated division.

1.3.14 Republican House Majority Would Be a Victory for Free Speech (2022-11-14 21:45)

Remember President Joe Biden's Disinformation Governance Board? It was so ridiculed that the administration quickly scaled it back and then shut it down. But beware, Biden is resorting to more secretive methods — a vast censorship operation in collusion with Silicon Valley — to tighten the screws on what Americans can say. It's all justified by phony FBI statistics claiming a surge in domestic violence and terrorism.

A report released Nov. 4 by Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee shows the deception the FBI is using to justify Biden's speech police. The chilling report documents, with whistleblower testimony, the FBI's role in silencing the Left's opponents.

Republicans, who are likely to sweep into the House majority, are vowing to unmask Biden's censorship scheme and the FBI's lies.

According to the report, federal officials in the White House, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and throughout the Biden administration have been meeting behind closed doors with Facebook, YouTube and other social media executives to decide what to take down and whom to muzzle.

And that's just for starters. To help the Biden administration identify and crack down on political critics, Facebook actually feeds the FBI a steady stream of private information about its users, according to an agency whistleblower. Be careful what you post. You're inviting the FBI into your life.

The Republican's report claims the FBI is "rotted at its core."

The report alleges the FBI and Facebook have a "special" two-way relationship. On the one hand, Facebook hosts a portal through which government officials only can send emails to Facebook flagging content they want suppressed. On the other hand, Facebook tips off the FBI about users, providing information the FBI would otherwise not be able to get without jumping through legal hoops.

To justify this heavy-handed monitoring of Americans, the agency is "artificially padding domestic violent extremism statistics by pressuring agents to reclassify investigations." The Biden administration is claiming domestic violence is increasing "significantly" when it's not. The agency is creating "a misleading narrative that domestic terrorism is organically surging around the country."

A Republican House victory would put the GOP in charge of the House Judiciary Committee with subpoena power. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), who would become the committee chair, is vowing to pursue a full investigation. Not a minute too soon. As Jordan's report reminds us, "the FBI has the power quite literally to ruin a person's life."

Biden has also turned the Department of Homeland Security into "a taxpayer-funded censorship campaign," according to a Nov. 3 letter from the House Oversight Committee's Republican members to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. It says DHS is targeting "political speech unfavorable to the Administration, especially around its handling of COVID-19 policy."

DHS' strategy for the coming years, contained in its draft

“Quadrennial Homeland Security Review,” includes suppressing “inaccurate information” on topics from the origins of COVID-19 to the current war in Ukraine. It’s the Disinformation Governance Board with more power.

You thought DHS was about protecting Americans. Under Biden, DHS is being commandeered to muzzle half of us.

The Louisiana and Missouri attorneys general are suing the Biden administration for censorship, naming at least 67 Biden officials as defendants involved in the collusion with Facebook, YouTube, and until recently, Twitter.

The Republican takeover of the House would move the action from the courtroom to Congress, as Republicans take charge of the House Oversight Committee and turn its spotlight on this covert censorship scheme.

You don’t have to be a conservative or even follow politics to be harmed by the Left’s speech police.

Parents debating whether to mask or vaccinate their children against COVID want information. They’re injured when the internet removes scientific views that challenge the administration’s claims.

When Beijing residents protested COVID lockdowns and demanded an end to mass testing, the Chinese Communist Party erased every trace of the incident from the internet. That’s how it’s done in China, a despotic regime. Americans don’t want their country to be like China.

Republicans now need to secure the House victory, tear down the Left's censorship operation and clean out the FBI.

1.3.15 Election Red-Linings (2022-11-14 21:47)

"When you wake up tomorrow, we will be in the majority, and Nancy Pelosi will be in the minority."

It's been three mornings since Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy made that claim to an empty "victory" party at 2 a.m. The tone-deaf remarks came after hopes of a red wave went up in smoke Tuesday night when election results rolled in. As of this writing and contrary to McCarthy's claims, Republicans still do not have control of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's gavel.

But despite overall disappointing results, there are some red linings that conservatives can celebrate.

First, Florida.

For decades, Florida has determined the outcome of presidential elections as a swing state. After Tuesday, it's bright red.

Republican Governor Ron DeSantis, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, and Republicans running for state-wide office swept the map from Destin to Miami. In recently deep blue Miami-Dade County, DeSantis won by double digits.

“We fight the woke in the Legislature. We fight the woke in the schools. We fight the woke in the corporations. We will never, ever surrender to the woke mob. Florida is where woke goes to die,” DeSantis said in his victory speech to a packed room of supporters.

“We faced the tasks, we took the hits, we weathered the storms, and we stood our ground. We did not back down. We had the conviction to guide us, and we had the courage to lead. We made promises to the people of Florida, and we have delivered on those promises. After four years, the people have delivered their verdict. Freedom is here to stay!” he continued. “I have only begun to fight.”

Florida is a solidly red state because Governor DeSantis rejected the tyrannical government’s COVID control. People fled blue states not because Florida has nice beaches but because it is free. His victory there bodes well for the future of Republicans in national elections.

While U.S. Congressman Lee Zeldin came up short in his bid to unseat incumbent Democratic Governor Kathy Hochul, his strength at the top of the ticket pulled a number of U.S. House Republicans over the finish line. Republicans were able to flip seats in four districts, holding off a Democratic House majority as other candidates failed to deliver.

In NY-17, Republican State Assemblyman Mike Lawler was victorious over Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Sean Patrick Maloney. Maloney served five terms and scalping a chairman hasn’t happened since 1980.

“I got into this race almost six months ago because of what was going on in our country and in this state. Folks throughout this district, regardless of where they came from, most understand that we need to restore balance and common sense at every level of government, and I am excited by the opportunity to go to work on behalf of this community and this district and to stand up for our families,” Lawler said about his win. “Whether you agree with my politics or not, I will do my level best to fight for your family, to fight for your children, to make sure that our voices are heard.”

It’s time for the Republican Party to study the victories in Florida and New York, then apply the principles for a successful future.

1.3.16 When Voting Was Easy (2022-11-14 21:48)

Does anyone here remember the good ole ‘ days when you went with your parents to vote? You stood there and watched them cast their ballot, and get a receipt, and before you went to bed you knew who had won because Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley, and David Brinkley would tell you.

The great part was that you believed them and trusted in the American electoral process. Now, we have seen some old-school chicanery in our process—talk to folks in Texas about Lyndon Baines Johnson. We all remember the whacky “hanging chads” of Florida and the 2000 presidential election. Heck, I remember ten years ago learning that you could have more than 100 percent voter turnout in St. Lucie County. I saw, like clockwork, how a little after midnight there was a mysterious 4,000 vote shift, which in the end no one could explain.

What has happened? We have gone from a process that was relatively simple, easy, and disruption-free, to a time when we are now told you

don't get results for a week. And, oh yeah, we have always had absentee ballots coming from our men and women in uniform, and they got counted.

Something must be done because certain places in America have become laughingstocks. Consider what has transpired since the year 2000 in Florida. Folks in the Sunshine State do not go to bed without knowing the election results in their state, regardless of who is declared the winner. When Ron DeSantis was elected as governor four years ago, upon inauguration he immediately put a laser focus on election integrity. He fired the Palm Beach County supervisor of elections, Susan Bucher, whom I knew quite well. His action inspired long-time electoral integrity nemesis, Brenda Snipes of Broward County, to resign. Additionally, it put others, like St. Lucie County Secretary of Elections, Gertrude Walker, on notice.

It is quite unconscionable to me that elections were much easier when we had less technology. Now, we have machines that “go down.” We have a lack of voting ballots, even printers that run out of ink. The level of incompetence is rather disconcerting, if not intentionally malicious and nefarious. The result is a lack of trust and confidence when we have very specific places, — Arizona and Nevada come to mind — where we cannot get election results promptly. Not to mention a candidate for governor who is also the Secretary of State, Katie Hobbs, who is in charge of elections.

So, what must be done? I have a few recommendations.

First, it only comes every two years, so make Election Day a national holiday. Heck, New Year's Day is a national holiday. If we make it a national holiday there is no reason to not be able to cast your vote, no excuse for having to go to work or needing to take the kids to school. Take your kids with you to vote, as Mom and Dad did with me in Atlanta, to their polling location at Henry Grady High School, where I ended up graduating. Our kids could use a lesson from their parents on civics.

Second, this “early voting” thing has gotten doggone out of hand. Next thing you know, early voting will be extended to September in some places. I am not a fan of early voting, but when you address it, the progressive socialist left says you are trying to suppress the vote. Well, if you have a national holiday, you are certainly not suppressing the vote. If there is to be early voting, then it cannot extend past one week, just the week before the national election day, Monday through Friday. And, over the weekend, all early votes should be tabulated.

Third, no more unsolicited mail-in ballots or voting by mail in America. You have two choices, request an absentee ballot, or vote in person during the one-week early voting period, or on the national election day. This whole mail-in ballot scheme was part of the progressive socialist strategy as articulated by Eric Holder in his April of 2020 Time magazine [1]op-ed. No more ballot harvesting and drop boxes. Let us make voting easy again and cheating harder. Let’s ensure our seniors are not abused and made subject to voter fraud.

Fourth, we need to implement safeguard systems for our electoral process. There must be paper trail backups to these voting machines. There must be top-level testing of voting machines and they must never be tied to the internet. Voters should receive a voting receipt. I remember my parents getting this. No, not purple fingers, but some type of receipt that can be issued to the voter. We get a receipt to show proof of purchase, so why not show proof of voting? There must be a voter ID. You cannot get onto a plane without a picture ID unless you are an illegal immigrant. By the way, no illegal immigrants should ever be allowed to vote in America, at any level: federal, state, or local municipality. Voter ID is not racist. All this hyperbolic “Jim Crow 2.0” rhetoric must cease. After all, Jim Crow was the brainchild of the Democrat party.

No one is allowed to change election law except the legislative branch. When governors, Secretary of State, and judges change election laws that is a definitive threat to our representative democratic process. I reiterate, America is not a democracy. When a judge decides

to interpret election law, such as was done in Pennsylvania on undated mail-in ballots, no slick suit partisan lawyer, like Mark Elias, should be able to file a lawsuit.

Elections are executed at the local county level. However, we are experiencing too many irregularities and disturbing actions. The federal government must operate within the rule of law, according to the Supremacy and Guarantee clauses in the Constitution and provide a republican form of government to every state in the Union. Republican governors and State legislatures need to continue to focus on election integrity, as Governor Ron DeSantis did.

We must once again make voting easy, reduce this lag time on presenting results, and make it harder to cheat and cause confusion.

Steadfast and Loyal.

1. <https://time.com/5820622/elections-coronavirus-eric-holder/>

1.3.17 A Reflection On Election 2022 (2022-11-14 21:49)

In Martin Scorsese's Oscar winning film *The Departed*, the Irish mafia infiltrate the Boston State Police, and the Police infiltrate the Irish Mafia. Toward the end of the movie, the undercover police officer throws off a hit job, and the mafia boss gets shot. Looking up at the undercover cop, he asks "What the hell happened?"

We are hearing lots of prognosticators weigh in on the Red Wave that was and was not. No doubt they will fit the outcomes into their narrative. Derek Hunter goes after Lindsey Graham. Neo-Never Trumper Ann Coulter is blaming Trump (of course). MAGA-endorsed candidates point the blame at the Republican leadership in Washington.

I suggest we just look at the evidence, and draw conclusions from there.

First of all, the red states got redder. A number of states now have supermajorities, or their supermajorities are more conservative. Other states saw state supreme courts and other down ballot races get redder, too.

But what about the blue states? New York resisted the blue pushback because of Lee Zeldin's team-player gubernatorial campaign pulling up the GOP ticket across the state. Strangely enough, even in deep blue Hawaii, Republicans gained a few state legislative seats!

Michigan: their abortion amendment helped the Dems, big time.

Pennsylvania: mail-in balloting, plus a diehard commitment to the blue team, which means that Democrats would vote for Uncle Festering Vegetable (who supports fracking!) over Dr. Oz, who walked away from Trump, who did not resonate with working class voters, who whiffed on abortion, and who was a dual-citizen Muslim, which may have alienated working-class voters.

Roe v. Wade played a larger role in this election than people realized, but not in a uniform way. In the red states, the conservative promoters for life got a major boost. Every pro-life Republican governor won big. How does one explain Montana, though, and Kansas earlier on, where pro-life amendments failed? Big money and big lies. The fight for life is not over following the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

I will say this, though: if Roe v. Wade caused Republicans to lose some seats, it was totally worth it. Conservatives need to think about changing the culture, not just politicians. Democrats knew they would lose seats when they shoved Obamacare down our throats. They played the long game, and see where they are. Culture, not just party color makes the difference.

The state of Georgia passed strong election integrity reforms. Kemp won outright, but Walker is struggling. So, how do we explain Georgia?

Governor Kemp is a quieter version of DeSantis. No one wants to hear this, but it's true. He played the long game, lined up great political support over the last year, got the best campaign team imaginable, and played offense when Trump announced a primary challenge. During the latest legislative session in Atlanta, he enacted considerable reforms, saved taxpayers money, AND fought the culture war. He was competent and confident. And he was the incumbent. Herschel Walker was taking on an incumbent, so right away there was going to be trouble. Plus the fact that the Democrats see the greater prize in maintaining power in the judicial-confirming US Senate, and you have the real reasons why Walker hasn't won in a walk.

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to outdo the cheaters by the new rules, and then fix the rules when they get back in power. And this starts in Washington DC. Right now, Republicans should be drafting their own version of the “For the People Act.”

1.3.18 Biden and Trudeau Beclown Themselves by Parading Around Asia in Commie Mao Jackets (2022-11-14 21:54)

What better way to show the world you suckle at the teat of the globalists’ New World Order than to dress like the most “successful” mass-murdering communist in history?

Joe Biden and Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, North America’s one-two punch of Marxism, were filmed happily flouncing around the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in matching Mao starter kit jackets.

What in the fresh hell is this?! [1]pic.twitter.com/7JtBwXOAW4

— AG □ (@Yolo304741) [2]November 13, 2022

FAMINE-O-RAMA! Some leftists believe dressing like a geisha on Halloween is “[3]super not cool.” Yet Biden and Trudeau were happy to bend their weak knees and dress like Chairman Mao, the commie dictator responsible for [4]more deaths than Hitler and Stalin. Democrats have said nothing.

Most of the people on Mao's victim list died of starvation. Now is a good time to remind you that the Dutch want to close [5]30 % of their livestock farms in the name of "climate change" and they want this done by 2030.

Holy cow farts, Batman: 2030 is the same year the commie swine (heh-heh) at the World Economic Forum (WEF) predict plan to cut most meat out of our lives.

Meat will be a special treat. Read more: [6]<https://t.co/RiQP6tpkfp>
[7]pic.twitter.com/7BcRHgnWTx

— World Economic Forum (@wef) [8]April 9, 2018

The embarrassing, planned sartorial bum-licking comes just before North America's [9]Uriah Heeps are expected to meet with China's leader Xi Jinping. Some Canadians expect Trudeau to [10]confront Jinping on civil rights involving the Uyghurs and China's possible involvement in Canada's 2019 election.

FACT-O-RAMA! A man suffering from cognitive disabilities was recently [11]fired for dressing as Hitler in a mocking way. But when a president suffering from his own issues dresses as Mao, leftists say nothing.

Biden will meet Jinping for the first time on Monday to discuss, among other things, the [12]tension between China and Taiwan. What better way for Trudeau and Biden to stand up to the pinkos than by dressing like their exalted, draconian leader? It reminds me of [13]Jen Psaki wearing a Soviet hat in Russia.

1. <https://t.co/7JtBwXOAW4>
 2. https://twitter.com/Yolo304741/status/1591903699840143360?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 3. <https://www.bustle.com/life/culturally-appropriative-halloween-costumes-you-should-never-wear>
 4. <https://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/the-legacy-mao-zedong-mass-murder>
 5. <https://www.dailywire.com/news/dutch-farmers-spread-manure-on-streets-as-new-emissions-rules-threaten-to-close-down-livestock-farms>
 6. <https://t.co/RiQP6tpkfp>
 7. <https://t.co/7BcRHgnWTx>
 8. https://twitter.com/wef/status/983378870819794945?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 9. https://www.wordhippo.com/what-is/another-word-for/Uriah_Heep.html
 10. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/china-strategy-meetings-g20-asean-1.6650280>
 11. <https://www.wisn.com/article/hitler-halloween-costume-leads-to-wisconsin-mans-firing/41859038>
 12. <https://www.dw.com/en/joe-biden-to-meet-xi-jinping-on-g20-sidelines/a-63716639>
 13. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/usa-today-fact-checking-jen-psaki-hammer-and-sickle-hat>
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1.3.19 A Reflection On Election 2022 (2022-11-14 22:08)

In Martin Scorsese's Oscar winning film *The Departed*, the Irish mafia infiltrate the Boston State Police, and the Police infiltrate the Irish Mafia. Toward the end of the movie, the undercover police officer throws off a hit job, and the mafia boss gets shot. Looking up at the undercover cop, he asks "What the hell happened?"

We are hearing lots of prognosticators weigh in on the Red Wave that was and was not. No doubt they will fit the outcomes into their narrative. Derek Hunter goes after Lindsey Graham. Neo-Never Trumper Ann Coulter is blaming Trump (of course). MAGA-endorsed candidates point the blame at the Republican leadership in Washington.

I suggest we just look at the evidence, and draw conclusions from there.

First of all, the red states got redder. A number of states now have supermajorities, or their supermajorities are more conservative. Other states saw state supreme courts and other down ballot races get redder, too.

But what about the blue states? New York resisted the blue pushback because of Lee Zeldin's team-player gubernatorial campaign pulling up the GOP ticket across the state. Strangely enough, even in deep blue Hawaii, Republicans gained a few state legislative seats!

Michigan: their abortion amendment helped the Dems, big time.

Pennsylvania:

mail-in balloting, plus a diehard commitment to the blue team, which means that Democrats would vote for Uncle Festering Vegetable (who supports fracking!) over Dr. Oz, who walked away from Trump, who did not resonate with working class voters, who whiffed on abortion, and who was a dual-citizen Muslim, which may have alienated working-class voters.

Roe v. Wade played a larger role in this election than people realized, but not in a uniform way. In the red states, the conservative promoters for life got a major boost. Every pro-life Republican governor won big. How does one explain Montana, though, and Kansas earlier on, where pro-life amendments failed? Big money and big lies. The fight for life is not over following the overturning of Roe v. Wade .

I will say this, though: if Roe v. Wade caused Republicans to lose some seats, it was totally worth it. Conservatives need to think about changing the culture, not just politicians. Democrats knew they would lose seats when they shoved Obamacare down our throats. They played the long game, and see where they are. Culture, not just party color makes the difference.

The state of

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1.3.20 Sony is losing it: 6 reasons Xbox Series X will beat PS5 - Reader's Feature (2022-11-14 22:20)

A reader worries that Sony has become too complacent with the early success of the PS5 and details several ways it's losing ground to [1]Xbox.

This month's State of Play was the point at which I realised that Sony had lost the plot and no matter how well the PlayStation 5 is selling at the moment it's ultimately doomed to failure.

I've actually felt this way for a while, so while I might be being a bit melodramatic about the State of Play, I feel it's the straw that breaks the camel's back.

The underlying reason is simply that Microsoft has much more money than Sony and while I don't think they're using it particularly sensibly (stop signing up so many mediocre American developers!) that's being equalled out by the bad decisions Sony is making.

1. **Japan.** Sony giving up on Japan is stupid for several reasons, not least the fact that having no foothold in Japan, in terms of audience or developers, is one of Microsoft's major weaknesses. And now Sony is just throwing that away for absolutely no reason. Even though sales of Xbox Series X/S are already well up on Xbox One, proving that Japan is perfectly open to Xbox as a brand.
2. **Streaming.** This one is even dumber because Sony had the lead on streaming when they bought Gaikai back in 2012, and set-up PlayStation Now, well before Microsoft had anything similar. But PlayStation Now has been neglected ever since and Microsoft is now streets ahead in terms of both its streaming service and the server farms to power it – so far ahead that Sony itself has had to make an agreement to use their hardware. Although even that hasn't resulted in any new services yet.
3. **Games.** Sony has done really well in the first year of the PlayStation 5, in terms of the number of quality first party games it's released. But this Christmas it has none and Microsoft has Forza Horizon 5 and Halo Infinite. Horizon Forbidden West and Gran Turismo Sport are out next spring but to be honest both Microsoft's games are bigger than them and Sony's real trump card, God Of War, doesn't have a date at all. There's no hint of any other games for next year either (Spider-Man 2 is 2023) which is really worrying for a company that usually announces them years in advance.
4. **Game Pass.** On the face of it Game Pass seems like an easy thing to copy from Microsoft. It's not a technical advantage, like streaming, it's simply an issue of money. Sony can't afford to give all their first party games away, and even if that did prove cost effective they definitely can't afford to keep buying up third party games the way Microsoft is, so there's no way a PlayStation Pass could ever be as good.
5. **Money.** The problem with most of these issues is that Sony is a much smaller company than Microsoft and simply cannot afford to compete on the same scale. The only way that's going to change is if they team up with, or get bought by, someone else. But Sony are only small in comparison to Microsoft so they're an expensive purchase considering nothing else they do makes much money and I can't see any kind of team-up happening.
6. **Arrogance.** Even more than money this is the fundamental flaw with Sony and it's one they've always suffered from, and were made to suffer for with the PlayStation 3. The problem now is that the PlayStation 5 is doing so well that Sony isn't doing anything to counter Microsoft and despite many of the responses they could make, many of them listed above, they're just sitting around doing nothing. And very soon it's going to be too late for anything.

Of

course, the one counter to all this is that Sony has a secret plan and is one day going to announce a super value Game Pass equivalent that

works with streaming and includes tons of exclusive Japanese made games. But let's face it, that's not going to happen.

What will happen is that Sony will accept all the above as true far too late, make a hurried attempt to reverse course and realise that they've wasted their advantage and, especially as consoles become obsolete, there's no way for them to ever beat Xbox.

1. https://metro.co.uk/tag/xbox/?ico=auto_link_entertainment_P1_LNK1

1.3.21 Is PlayStation really beating Xbox in the 'console war'? (2022-11-14 22:35)

As someone who has spent his career writing about video game sales, I have seen my fair share of console tribalism.

Whenever I report on anything related to [1]Xbox or [2]PlayStation (and sometimes [3]Nintendo) my Twitter feed quickly fills up with opposing fans arguing and shouting at each other, as if they have some personal investment in the businesses they're supporting.

It's depressing and I can see why Xbox boss [4]Phil Spencer [5]describes it as the one thing that could drive him out of the industry.

Although the level of vitriol is absurd, I do have some sympathy as to why consumers get so caught up in this. Most people only have the time and money to invest in one console, and when they make their choice, they're placing a bet that this machine will be the one that will have the games they like and will keep them entertained for years and years.

If you happen to be someone who ever owned a Dreamcast or an original Xbox or a [6]Wii U, then you'll know that console sales do matter. Nobody wants to own the console that has no third-party support, or is replaced after just a few years, or worse, is discontinued and no longer supported.

So who is winning the current console battle between Xbox and PlayStation (and also Nintendo)? [7]The sales figures released this week show that [8]Sony is racing ahead... but is there a chance of an Xbox comeback? Is this the beginning of the end for the [9]Switch?

The first thing I need to do is reframe what victory looks like in this so-called 'console war'. A lot of consumers seem to think it's like Call of Duty, where teams fight it out and only one emerges victorious. But really it's more like Civilization, where there are numerous different win conditions.

"A lot of consumers seem to think it's like Call of Duty, where teams fight it out and only one emerges victorious. But really it's more like Civilization, where there are numerous different win conditions."

For instance, if you went over to Sony and asked the team who is winning, they'll tell you they are. With 10 million consoles sold in just over six months, it is one of – if not the – fastest-selling platforms on the planet. It's comfortably ahead of Xbox and it's forever sold out.

If you asked [10]Microsoft the same question, it would say that it is. As a pure games subscription service, it has the biggest and most popular one out there, with a huge line-up of games that's likely to keep that being the case for some time. With around 20 million active subscribers, they've got a rapidly expanding and completely engaged audience to speak to.

Of course, ask Nintendo, and it will tell you it is top of the games pile. Not only is its console still No.1 worldwide, but Nintendo's games are more popular than anyone else's, with Mario Kart and Animal Crossing, in particular, shifting more than 30 million copies worldwide.

All three of those competitors sell consoles, all three sell games and all three have subscription services. But when it comes to who is leading in each one of those categories, we have a different 'winner' every time. It's probably why the console war rhetoric is so aggressive. Everyone thinks their side is winning. And the truth is? They're right.

Of course, console competition has its downsides. [11]Bethesda being bought by Xbox is bad news for PlayStation fans. Nintendo signing Monster Hunter exclusively is bad news for everyone else.

But three strong, successful platforms also drives up competition. PlayStation has to sign and invest and build more new games, because Xbox is, and Xbox has to build and invest in studios and bring back classic franchises, because PlayStation is. [12]Spider-Man being brilliant means [13]Halo has to be brilliant which means Mario has to be brilliant and so on and so on

Right now, Nintendo doesn't feel like it's giving its fans much at all beyond what it needs to

We're in a rare situation where no single console is 'losing'. Nobody is being discontinued. Nobody is losing third-party support. All three fanbases can look forward to years and years of big, exciting games for them to enjoy.

So for now, let it go. It doesn't matter what the charts say, or how the sales figures read. Just sit back and look forward to the generation ahead. It's a good time to be a video game player, no matter what tribe you belong to.

1. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/platforms/xbox/>
2. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/platforms/playstation/>
3. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/platforms/nintendo/>
4. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/people/phil-spencer/>
5. <https://www.theverge.com/21611412/microsoft-phil-spencer-interview-xbox-series-x-launch-decoder-podcast>

6. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/platforms/nintendo/wiiu/>
 7. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/news/playstation-5-hits-10-million-sales-to-become-sonys-fastest-selling-console/>
 8. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/companies/sony/>
 9. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/platforms/nintendo/switch/>
 10. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/companies/microsoft/>
 11. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/news/bethesda-says-it-understands-playstation-fans-being-pissed-about-xbox-exclusivity/>
 12. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/games/marvels-spider-man/>
 13. <https://www.videogameschronicle.com/games/halo/>
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1.3.22 Why Rock And Roll Is The Best Genre Of Music (2022-11-14 23:48)

There are many reasons why rock and roll is the best genre of music. For one, rock and roll is a very [1]versatile genre that can encompass a wide range of styles and influences. This means that there is something for everyone within the genre, and that it can continue to evolve and change over time. Additionally, rock and roll has a rich history and tradition that is unmatched by any other genre of music. This history includes some of the most iconic and influential musicians of all time, who have shaped the sound and direction of the genre. Finally, rock and roll is simply a lot of fun. It is a genre that is full of energy and excitement, and it is sure to get your blood pumping. Whether you are headbanging along to your favorite band or dancing the night away, rock and roll is the perfect genre to get you moving.

Rock music appeals to people because it provides a break from the constricting world of song and music rather than relying on archaic styles. Rock music is unique in that it is always out of the norm, so the singer or the musician is always given the opportunity to experiment with their own instruments. It is feasible to tell a comprehensive story in two and a half minutes with Rock 'n' Roll. You can use this music to lift your spirits and connect with your heartbreak. This memory card allows you to recall the first time you fell in love with someone. Music's rock band focuses on the genuine passion of those who love music.

Rock 'n' roll has had a significant impact on music by making people feel like they have a say in how it is made. It is a genre that people find themselves in due to its diverse and accessible nature.

A plurality of respondents (53 percent) said they listened to rock music, while 47 percent said they liked to rock out in the United States, and 45 percent said they liked to rock out in Brazil. In total, there is a 20 % share of respondents from select countries who listen to the following **musical genres** in digital formats.

Since 2017, R & Hip-Hop has been the dominant music genre on

the United States Billboard charts, overtaking pop and rock and becoming the **dominant genre** in the United States.

Rock

and roll did not exist before Chuck Berry, as he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986, alongside Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly, Fats Domino, and others.

What Makes Rock Music Great?



Credit: themomentum.co

Rock music has always been a **favorite genre** of music for many people. It is a genre that is full of energy and excitement. Rock music is great because it is a genre that is perfect for dancing and partying. Rock music is also great because it is a genre that is full of emotion. When you listen to rock music, you can feel the passion and emotion that the artist is feeling.

The term “rock music” is more than just a chord progression. It is a soundtrack for our lives. Rock music, in many cases, is an excellent way to deal with problems that may arise in life. There are numerous styles of rock music, but that doesn’t mean it can’t be unique. I really enjoy rock music because it allows you to tell a whole story with only one song. It’s comforting to listen to rock music in order to remind ourselves that we’re all here to enjoy life, not to have it snatched away from us without a reason. Rock can be thought of as anything from reggae to rap to punk, metal, and pop, so there is no way to define it.

Rock music, which incorporates many different sub-genres, is a popular type

of music. Rock music can be used to lift your spirits by expressing your emotions like depression, anger, or happiness. Rock music, which was first introduced to the world in the 1940s, was born in the United States. Rock music is an essential part of our social lives because it communicates with our true selves. It is estimated that the Beatles influenced the most rock music of all time. Several rock bands have made significant contributions to **popular music**, including AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, and Metallica. For more than a century, there have been rumors that the Rolling Stones are the world's oldest rock band.

They first appeared in 1962 and continue to this day, bringing their distinct sound to the world. Several other acts have emerged in recent years, such as The Beatles and Led Zeppelin, who were both born after The Rolling Stones. Rock music is essential for survival, in addition to food, water, and shelter.

According

to the Canadian government, rock and rock-oriented music is defined as music that is characterized by a strong beat, blues-based forms, and the presence of rock instruments such as the electric guitar, electric bass, electric organ, and electric piano. Even though the boundaries between rock and other genres are frequently blurred, this definition implies that rock music can be distinguished. Rock music has been associated with a number of social movements in recent history, including the counterculture of the 1960s and the punk rock movement of the 1970s. **Many rock musicians**, such as Elvis Presley, The Beatles, and Jimi Hendrix, were initially dismissed as unworthy of attention and unserious. It is one of the most popular genres of music, with millions of fans all over the world. This song's influence can be heard in almost every genre of music, despite its numerous stylistic changes over the years.

Why Is Rock And Roll Music So Popular?



Credit: spinditty.com

Rock

and roll is popular for a variety of reasons. It is a genre of music that is easy to listen to and enjoy. It is also a genre of music that is easy to dance to. Additionally, rock and roll is a genre of music that is easy to play.

Rock 'n' roll music, which was popular in the United States from the mid-1950s to the 1970s, is a type of music. Other genres have contributed to the genre, such as blues, gospel, jazz, and even country music. The genre has influenced future generations by paving the way for the creation of new genres. Rock 'n' roll is associated with a wide range of other genres, including pop, rap, metal, and electronic dance music. Along with [2]classic rock, indie rock, glam rock, alternative rock, and ska, it has been a home to many other subgenres. On January 8th, at Brookdale Community College, a Rockit Academy 2022 winter session audition will take place.

When Was Rock Music Most Popular?

It began in the United States in the 1950s, spread to other

English-speaking countries and European countries in the 1960s, and grew to prominence in many different guises in the 1990s, as a result of its widespread application globally (if in some guises).

The Top 5 Countries For Rock Music

Rock

music is most popular in the United States, Mexico, and Brazil, according to the results of the poll. Because of the popularity of Britpop in the 1990s, the UK ranks fifth on the list.

Is Rock And Roll Music Still Popular?

The

most popular music in America is still rock, but it is not played by the young. Adults under the age of 30 rate it third behind hip hop and **pop music**, despite its widespread popularity among Americans overall.

Is Rock Music Making A Comeback?

Rock

music's popularity has declined dramatically over the last few decades, with the genre not dominating the charts as it once did. The revival may not last, as artists such as Post Malone and Miley Cyrus are helping to revive the genre. With young people protesting systemic issues of the day in 2020, the year 2020 is expected to be a watershed year in rock music. Fans and musicians alike will be overjoyed if rock makes a comeback.

Why Rock Music Is So Important?

Rock music has

had a significant impact on society due to its popularity and worldwide scope. Rock and roll changed how we live, fashion, attitudes, and language for the better, in a way few other social developments have.

The Pop Vs. Rock Debate

At

the end of the day, your preferences determine what happens. Some people find Pop music enjoyable, while others find Rock music appealing. Nonetheless, one thing is certain: these two genres have a lasting influence on popular culture.

What Is The Most Successful Genre Of Music?



Credit: Digital Music News

The most **successful genre**

of music depends on what you mean by successful. If you mean the genre that sells the most records, then it is probably pop music. If you mean the genre that wins the most awards, then it is probably classical music.

The vocabulary pages of Popular Music examine the structure of Popular Music's vocabulary, including its history, genres, people, and songs. A Wordchecker is available on each page to help explain a vocabulary phrase. The full vocabulary can be found in Vocabulary of Music. The United States has produced nearly all of the most popular genres of music. Louis Armstrong, a jazz pianist, helped to popularize a wide range of styles. In the 1940s, swing became the most popular dance music, becoming the music everyone was dancing to. There was a time when young musicians did not want to participate in jazz orchestras.

They

began experimenting with their own bands in addition to creating new styles such as modal jazz. Many bands released records in the R & B style by the mid-1940s. The style spread quickly throughout the country as large bands began playing piano, trumpet, and saxophone. T-Bone Walker's Tympany Five, which was co-written by Louis Jordan and G.I. Jive, and T-Bone Walker's The Power Of Love, which was number one in 1944, were two of the biggest sellers. In the early 1960s, Rock Music, a new music genre, gained popularity. Rock and roll artists such as Elvis combined elements of R & B, while soul artists such as James Brown developed a more rhythmic style known as funk in the late 60s. The result was the birth of a slew of new dance music styles during the 1970s and 1980s.

Gospel music, which is a rhythmic form of church music popular among African American Christians, is a type of music. Modern jazz is based on Arabic or Indian modes rather than European scales. Strings are orchestra strings made up of violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. The Beatles had the most number of hit singles of any band.

More people are listening to music online due

to the ease of using streaming services such as Spotify, Apple Music, and Pandora, as well as the popularity of subscription services such as Hulu and Netflix. In a nutshell, there is a demand for music from all genres, but classical music is taking the majority of the talent.

Classical musicians are the only ones who require a degree in music from a university accredited by the University Grants Commission. To be a blues musician, you only need to learn the blues style. They can also play jazz if they are good at improvise. While metal musicians must be

proficient at playing their instruments, those in the non-metal field only need to be competent. Pop music, as you might expect, is the most [3]straightforward genre to make. To do so, you must first find a good singing voice and be creative. There is a widespread belief that there is a demand for music from all genres, but classical music is taking the most talent. The other way to play blues is to have a mastery of the style. As it turns out, making pop music is extremely simple.

Why Classic Rock Is The Best Genre

There are many reasons why classic rock is the best genre. For one, classic rock has stood the test of time. It has been around for decades and is still just as popular as it ever was. Additionally, classic rock is a very versatile genre that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. It is also a genre that is very easy to listen to and appreciate.

I was taken aback by the tune American Idiot from Green Day's album American Idiot when I heard it on a classic rock station. What is meant by "classic rock"? To figure out the answer, a large amount of data and analysis must be carried out. If you want to form a classic rock band, you won't find one. This is something that happens naturally. The songs listed below can be found in the music database SongFacts.com. From the mid-'60s to early '70s, a large number of songs were released.

From 1973 to 1982, a total of 57 percent of song plays take place over the 10-year period. Almost half of all classic rock radio spins in the United States are accounted for by the top 25 most frequently played artists. During a week-long study period, I looked at the radio stations' play levels and discovered that these were the most-played songs on 25 of them. If you're not sure if you want Led Zeppelin, you might want to consider packing up and moving to New York, where 7 percent of all songs are by Zep. Each station's character is determined by how it interacts with its audience. In the South, rock music is a go-to choice for listeners. The migration of people within the 50 states is also a factor.

Spotify's Echo Nest uses data to generate recommendations for songs. Based on data from web-crawlers and music analysis software, the Echo Nest generates **genre definitions**. Using 13 dimensions, it determines whether the song is a classic rock, electronic, or hip-hop song. Based on minor imperfections in tempo, the Echo Nest can detect whether or not someone is behind a drum set. Baby boomers and Gen Xers, the two most important advertising demographics, are leaving the classic rock demographic. FiveThirtyEight identified

five classic rock stations in each of the 30 largest metropolitan statistical areas. WAXQ, New York; KLOS, Los Angeles; WLUP, Chicago; KZPS, Dallas; and KGLK, Houston are the largest metropolitan areas in the country based on their population.

The scrape crashed the afternoon of June 17th, but it was restored the next evening. The first song in this set is Bill Haley's Rock Around The Clock, which was released in 1955. Other notable albums released in that year included Bruce Springsteen's "The Rising" and Paul McCartney's "Nineteenth Avenue." I compiled my code in GitHub.

Why Rock Is Better Than Rap

There are many reasons why rock is better than rap. For one, rock is a more complex and diverse genre that incorporates a wide range of styles and influences. This allows for a more varied and interesting listening experience. Additionally, rock music is typically more lyrically and emotionally complex than rap, and the best rock bands are able to create a unique sound and identity that sets them apart from the rest. Finally, rock music has a much longer history than rap, and thus there is a greater wealth of [4]classic rock bands and songs to choose from.

In contrast to rap, where words and computers can be used to play the guitar, rock music necessitates real instruments and real knowledge of the guitar. [5]Rock fans, despite realizing that rap is better than rock, come up with stupid shit like fusion music because they believe rap is better. I hate Rock songs in the same way I hate Rap, and this is why I listen to neither. Rock is more concerned with rhythmic complexity than melodic or harmonic complexity, but few rock musicians are as rhythmically sophisticated as mediocre rappers. It's always easier to relate to rock lyrics; I can relate to them and it's a good way to let go of the stress/tension that can be overwhelming.

Is Rock More Popular Than Pop?

Music streaming is second most **popular genre** after rock music, accounting for 24.7 % of all streams, compared to pop music accounting for 21.1 %. With a share of 6.8 %, dance/EDM was the most popular format, followed by country, which had a share of 5.7 %.

Why Rock Music Is Still Popula

Rock

music is still one of the most popular types of music, having been around for a long time. This app is constantly changing, which is why it is so popular. It is impossible to live by the same rock music as it is. In other words, it is not afraid to be bold and daring. Because of its unique qualities, it stands out in the world of music. Pop music is regarded as more melodic and softer than other types of music. Fans of Rock, on the other hand, argue that Pop music is often too soft and lacks the same raw energy that Rock music has.

Is Listening To Rocks Good For You?

Even though rock music is commonly associated with anger and aggression, new research suggests that listening to hard rock can actually make you happier. We associate heavy metal with rage and chaos, but it can also be used to calm the soul and make a bad mood better.

The Brain-rock Connection

In

a recent PLOS One article, scientists discovered that rock music may have an impact on the brain in a variety of ways. The first study revealed that rock music causes a flood of dopamine, which causes a general sense of happiness and well-being. Rock music may also help to lower cortisol levels, which may result in a sense of relaxation and reduced stress. In the third study, it was discovered that rock music causes us to release endorphins, which help us feel happier. Rock music was discovered to reduce stress levels by distracting us from our physical and emotional needs. Furthermore, these findings suggest that rock music may be an effective stress reliever in both clinical and everyday settings.

What Is The Most Popular Music Genre

The most **popular music genre** is pop. Pop music is a genre of popular music that originated in its modern form in the United States and United Kingdom during the mid-1950s. The terms “popular music” and “pop music” are often used interchangeably, although the former describes all music that is popular and includes many diverse styles. Pop music is eclectic, and often borrows elements from other styles such as urban, dance, rock, Latin, and country.

According to our calculations, the most popular type of music may not be your cup of tea. In this article, we'll look at the top ten most **popular music genres**. We hope that by doing so, you will broaden your musical interests and discover new musicians, bands, and artists. Hip-hop was founded on an MC (sometimes referred to as an MC, though rappers are not necessarily hip-hop artists). It is now considered a genre, and it is derived from the Disco era of the 1970s. House, techno, trap, hardstyle, and many other sub-genres are just a few examples. There were many different types of the genre as the decades went on.

[6]Soft rock

included bands such as America and the Eagles. Acid rock, or psych rock, is a type of rock influenced by the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco. Among the contemporary R &B artists are Usher, Beyoncé, and Mariah Carey. Latin pop music is one of the most popular genres on the planet. In K-pop, it is all about getting the mood right, having fun, and getting the mind stimulated. Country and pop music audiences are now discovering contemporary bluegrass artists. The roots of country music can be found in bluegrass, Texas swing, folk, and gospel music.

The Middle Ages saw the beginning of classical music in western Europe. Although metal has been around for a long time, bands like Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath are regarded as pioneers in their field. Chris Stapleton is one of the country music stars today, along with Carrie Underwood, Brad Paisley, and Brad Paisley. Led Zeppelin's heavy sound paved the way for the growth of today's metal bands. There are several subgenres within metal, including thrash, death metal, and black metal. Metal is distinguished by the fact that guitars and basses down tune. It's as if the strings were lowered in subtle ways, resulting in an intense and dark tone.

According to MRC

Data, 20 % of total album equivalent consumption in 2020 will be made up of R & Hip-hop. In both 2019 (27.4 %) and 2018, that figure increased. In 2020, Rock was the second most popular music genre in the United States in both formats and across on-demand streaming platforms.

The most noticeable increase in this year's lineup is in

R &B/hip-hop, which increased by 12 from three to twelve artists.

Heritage rockers, country artists, and jam bands stand out for their concert sales as the most profitable when touring at peak performance.

It is easy to see why these genres are popular: artists such as Drake and Post Malone have continued to dominate the charts and dominate the conversation, which is very much due to their success. Some argue that these genres are popular simply because they are, but they do have a genre-bending sound to them, such as Childish Gambino and Drake. Anderson Paak demonstrates that there is more to these genres than just catchy hooks and catchy beats.

Why Rock Music Is Good For You

Rock music is good for you because it can boost your mood, help you relax, and provide a distraction from everyday worries. Listening to rock music can also help increase your energy levels and improve your concentration. If you're feeling down, rock music can help you feel more positive and optimistic. And if you're looking to get pumped up for a workout or a big event, rock music can help you get into a high-energy state.

Rock is a [7]musical style that encompasses a wide range of genres. You can perform this song in a variety of styles, including heavy, melodic, and choral. Millions of people around the world enjoy rock music because it can be used to create quick reactions, sharp movements, anger, fear, love, and sex. Researchers say that listening to heavy music can boost brain activity. When the human brain is surrounded by loud noises, it strives to block distractions and concentrate on processing information as closely as possible. If a child has been listening to rock music since the age of five, he or she has a greater chance of being involved in math and physics. According to Stephen King, his favorite music influences his writing and he enjoys reading books while listening to it.

Rock music is an independent phenomenon that cannot be influenced by our desires or moods; it is not subject to change. According to some researchers, the influence of music on a person, character, or individual is determined by their characteristics. A person enjoys rock music as much as he or she enjoys the beach, which is comparable to ocean waves rolling in.

Everyone Love Rock Music

Everyone loves rock music because it is a genre of music that is enjoyed by people of all ages. It is a genre of music that is easy to listen to and

is very catchy. Rock music is also a genre of music that is very popular and is always on the radio.

There was an exposed concrete crib known as **Love Rock** at the North Point intake. The intake, which was built over a five-year period beginning in 1895, was finished in 1897. In 1984, an Ald. Paul Henningsen proposed putting up a false front on the crib. Love Rock was demolished in 1986 at the age of 91.

1. <https://sites.psu.edu/gabegrandpassionblog/2015/05/04/being-versatile/>
 2. <https://www.loudersound.com/classic-rock>
 3. <https://www.storyboardthat.com/articles/e/literary-genres>
 4. <https://ultimateclassicrock.com/top-classic-rock-artists/>
 5. <https://societyofrock.com/10-types-of-classic-rock-fans/>
 6. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1L60c_hvCk
 7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_genre
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1.3.23 The World Wants No Part of Woke, but It's Glad We Do (2022-11-22 22:32)

The United States obsesses over whether biological men can compete in women's sports as transgender females.

Crime is spiking at levels not seen in 40 years. But some consider it racist to suggest that arrests, indictments, convictions, and incarcerations deter crime.

Major U.S. downtowns almost overnight went from mostly safe and clean to terrifying and toxic — and we brag that we are at least “tolerant” of the medieval conditions.

The Pentagon and CIA put out recruitment videos that sound like kindergarten diversity, equity, and inclusion programming.

Yet the military is less eager to explain why the United States met utter humiliation in Afghanistan or why the army only has met about 50

percent of its scheduled recruitment targets.

Few dare to attribute declining morale, inept strategic thinking, and anemic recruitment to the stereotyping and targeting of middle-class white males, Soviet-style workshops, and diversity, equity, and inclusion mind conditioning.

The Biden administration in its first 18 months warred on the U.S. oil and gas industry. Radical cutbacks in fossil fuels supposedly would “transition” the world to a greener future.

Biden expressed little worry about the resulting economic damage to the middle class or the lack of commensurate efforts in India and China to curb emissions.

During COVID, American popular culture has collectively demonized any who were lax on masking and social distancing as “super-spreaders.”

Federal employees and military personnel who skipped the new mRNA COVID-19 inoculations on grounds the shots were not fully vetted, were stereotyped as red-state conspiracist super-spreaders. They were accused of endangering all Americans by their supposedly selfish behavior.

Yet there has been no such judgmental criticism of individual conduct during the current monkeypox outbreak.

Given the loud woke media, few would dare suggest that social distancing, or avoiding areas where promiscuous sex is frequent might slow down the dangerous epidemic — 95 percent of whose cases so far have been sexually transmitted. Ninety-eight percent of infected people were gay or bisexual men, 41 percent had HIV and the median age was 38.

The daily stuff of tabloids is cancel-culturing, virtue signaling, and suing over race and gender.

Recently, the woke movement may have jumped the proverbial shark when a family filed a \$25 million lawsuit against Sesame Place in Philadelphia. One of the guilty theme park's costume character actors apparently ignored a young African-American girl in the crowd who was reaching out for a hug.

The American middle class is learning just how much poorer they are after suffering a collective \$3 trillion stock loss in retirement accounts.

For some reason, their stocks plummeted despite Wall Street's past loud commitment to politically correct Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investment. That new woke idea puts green, racial, and gender issues ahead of profit and loss investment calculations — at least for the declining middle class.

ESG may be a permissible luxury in a bull market, but it can help to ruin millions of lives in a bear one.

The new “anti-inflation” budget bill manages to increase federal spending in times of inflation, while upping taxes and regulation during

a recession.

Interest rates must climb far higher to slow down spiking prices. But the higher they go, the harder it is to service the gargantuan \$30 trillion — and climbing — national debt.

Our enemies abroad, particularly China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia, are watching all this woke, comic madness with absolute glee.

They are delighted the United States is diverting trillions of dollars and man hours away from production to ideological witch hunts, woke cannibalism, green virtue-signaling, spendthrift consumption, racial and gender fixations, warped science, suicidal surveillance, and commissariat indoctrination.

Woke means that Americans have less money, labor, and time to hone their military readiness. They will produce less competitive energy, but more pseudo-science, non-meritocratic advancement, and unsound investment — all reasons why America will no longer dominate the world.

Most analysts abroad do not believe that being woke translates into more accurate missiles, more lethal infantrymen, more efficient industrial production, better medicine, cheaper, more plentiful energy, a more united, cohesive population — and a higher standard of living.

So, our unwoke adversaries certainly want us to stay woke.

And why not? Russia already has better hypersonic missiles and more nuclear warheads.

China can likely sink any \$12 billion American aircraft carrier and its 5,000 diverse “they/them” crew that dares to venture into the Taiwan strait.

Beijing already produces 90 percent of “the global supply of inputs needed to make the generic antibiotics,” and nearly as large a percentage of our key vitamins and painkillers.

India and Brazil do not want any more pot-to-kettle U.S. lectures on their need for better elections and racial relations.

While we war on our past, our competitors abroad prep for the future.

They are more likely to erect than tear down statues. We spend what we borrow; they invest what they earn.

How odd America once taught the world what works — only now to mock its own lessons.

1.3.24 Let the Blame Games Begin? (2022-11-22 22:33)

Who or what was responsible for the Republican nationwide collapse in the midterms? After all, pundits, politicians, and pollsters all predicted a “red tsunami.”

Moreover, the average loss of any

president in his first midterm is 25 House seats. And when his approval sinks to or below 43 % — in the fashion of President Joe Biden — the loss, on average, expands to over 40 seats.

Former President

Barack Obama in 2010 lost 63 seats. Is Biden, therefore, more charismatic or more energetic than Obama? Was his agenda more successful and popular?

Given such high Republican expectations, the blame game for the loss is as strident and confusing as was the election itself.

Here are some of the most common targets of criticism.

Former

President Donald Trump is being blamed on various counts. Before the midterms, he strangely attacked Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. And he loudly hinted that he would run again.

Those histrionics

supposedly took attention away from Republican candidates. Trump turned off some DeSantis fans from Trump-endorsed candidates, and energized Trump-hating left-wingers to go out and vote to stop the momentum for a second Trump presidency.

Yet the idea that Trump was erratic or reckless was not really new and surprised no one on either side of the political divide.

Two, Trump promoted many losing candidates, often on the narrow basis of whether they had accepted his charges of a rigged 2020 election. His critics countered that while his MAGA candidates won primaries in states like Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania, they had little chance of going on to win general elections.

Yet, some important

Trump-supported candidates did win, including J. D. Vance in Ohio and Ted Budd in North Carolina. At the same time, many centrists and moderates, such as Joe O'Dea in Colorado, lost.

Three, why did

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and the fossilized Republican hierarchy short candidate Blake Masters in Arizona, while pouring money into an internecine fight in Alaska on the side of the less conservative Republican candidate?

Nevertheless, Republican House and Senate

coffers probably gave MAGA candidates more than Trump did from his \$100 million-plus campaign stash.

Four, are we not in the midst of the greatest political revolution of our age? Election Day voting in most states has been reduced to about 30 % of the electorate. What replaced it is an utter mess of early balloting, absentee balloting, mail-in balloting, ranked voting, run-off voting, and endless counting.

The Left saw winning advantages with these radical changes, many made under the pretext of the COVID-19 lockdowns. And it has mastered them to such a degree that most Republicans with small leads at the end of Election Day now expect to lose over the subsequent days and weeks.

Yet, the Republicans already got burned in 2020 by these ongoing radical changes. Did they not have ample time to avoid their recurrence?

Five, this time the silent and undercounted voters were not disillusioned MAGA supporters who hung up on pollsters' calls.

Instead, pollsters missed the 70 % of those under 30, along with single women, who voted straight Democratic tickets.

Mannered Republicans may have scoffed at how Biden and the Left demagogued the abortion issue, or slandered Republicans as semi-fascists, and un-American insurrectionists. They shrugged at Biden's hokey efforts at buying off young voters with amnesties for marijuana convictions and student loans or offering slightly cheaper gas by draining the strategic petroleum reserves.

But all those low-minded strategies resulted in high left-wing enthusiasm and turnout.

Six, usually reliable conservative pollsters forecast a huge Republican victory. Apparently, they oversampled conservative voters, reasoning that left-leaning pollsters usually undersampled them.

They were not just wrong, but way off. And the ensuing hubris of certain victory led to nemesis as Republicans let up the last few weeks. Thousands of conservative voters may have passed at the chance to go to the polls deeming their votes superfluous.

Seven, the Left smeared conservatives as democracy destroyers and violent insurrectionists. So, when the Republicans offered nonstop negative appraisals of Biden's failed policies without commensurate alternative positive agendas, they unknowingly fed into the Democrats' false narrative of cranky nihilists.

Could not Republicans have offered an upbeat and coherent contract with America that offered uplifting, concrete solutions to each of Biden's messes?

Finally, Democrats are now the party of the very rich. The neo-socialist Democratic Party has more billionaire capitalists than do the free-market Republicans.

In almost every important Senate or gubernatorial race, the Democratic candidate was the far better funded of the two. In some races, like the New Hampshire U.S. Senate election, the Democrat outspent his Republican counterpart by a staggering 17-1.

Has the Republican Party of capitalism forgotten the power and role of money in politics? Why is it once again so easily outfunded, outspent, and outsmarted?

All these writs variously explain the otherwise inexplicable dismal Republican performance.

Yet there is a common denominator for Republicans to all these multifaceted problems: either different leaders or different strategies — or both — are necessary to ensure different results.

1.3.25 The Same Old, Same Old Deja Vu (2022-11-22 22:34)

Attorney General Merrick Garland has just announced the appointment of special counsel Jack Smith.

But Smith's team will not look into the Biden family quid pro quo syndicate nor its incriminating confessionals on Hunter Biden's laptop.

Instead, it will further investigate Donald Trump's possession of presidential records that were hauled off from Mar-a-Lago, as well as his purported role in the January 6 "insurrection."

We know the script that will follow because we suffered through it for 22 months and spent \$40 million for it under Robert Mueller's special counsel team.

First, the Smith investigation will bear no resemblance to special counsel John Durham's probes. The media ignored Durham. His team did not leak to the press. And neither a Washington, D.C. nor northern Virginia jury was ever likely to convict any perceived enemy of Trump.

Second, upon the announcement of Smith's legal staffers, the media will grow giddy that their resumes portend another "dream team," "all-stars," or "a hunter-killer team."

Puff pieces will blanket the media. They will attest, just like "good Ol' Bob Mueller," that the former Obama Justice Department public integrity unit lawyer Smith is "an old hand," "tough but fair," "nonpartisan," and a "prosecutor's prosecutor."

Weeks into the investigation, the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN, or MSNBC will darkly inform their audiences that "unnamed sources close to the investigation tell us that "a bombshell" is about to go off.

Perhaps the "stunning development" will be similar to the fake "walls are closing in" scoop about the conspiratorial pinging in Trump tower

from the Alfa Bank in Russia, or the “game-changer” Christopher Steele-fed, pee-pee, Moscow hotel room fable.

Yet one thing that will be different this time around is that the Biden administration is in power. Garland remains an unapologetic, embittered partisan. He is fresh off siccing a now-weaponized FBI on school kids’ parents and various MAGA enemies of the state.

After two prior failed impeachment trials, a failed special counsel’s investigation, and a failed and biased January 6 committee probe, Washington government lawyers know that their last and only Wile E. Coyote chance of catching the Roadrunner and now presidential candidate Trump is to get at least something into the hands of a Washington, D.C. jury.

We also know the script of the 2024 election from the last two elections. Election Day 2004 will be an afterthought. Election Night will be an introduction to Election Month.

Sudden ballot “drops” will start pouring in during the wee hours. Voters who went to bed watching many Republican candidates with sizable leads will awake to magical Democratic “comebacks.”

We will again suffer through early voting, mail-in voting, ranked-choice voting, and majority-only voting. The more who vote, the more we will be warned of “voter suppression” and “election deniers.”

“Get out the vote” left-wing, electronically fueled projects like this year’s “Mind the Gap” involving Sam Bankman-Fried’s family, or Mark Zuckerberg’s 2020 \$419 million de facto absorption of balloting collection in key precincts, will merely be replaced by new names.

There will be new, even richer virtue-signaling billionaires. But otherwise, the same old Silicon Valley-Wall Street font will vastly out-raise pathetic Republican efforts.

Unfortunately for Americans, the 2024 economy will likely still be wounded by nearly four years of inflation. High-interest rate correctives will still have choked off the housing market.

Unemployment and stagflation will still be termed “transitory.” Growth will continue to be slow but dubbed “steady.” High gas and energy prices will be near permanent but “coming down.” A wide-open border will still be termed “secure.” Talk of historic crime rates will still be “racist.”

President Joe Biden will still shake imaginary hands, talk of passing legislation through the Congress that he bypassed with executive orders, and still claim gas was \$5 a gallon when he entered office. Fact-checkers will ignore all that mythology and still obsess over Republican “lies.”

The left-wing nexus will still warn of back-alley abortions that threaten millions of women, of children still likely to die if “Mega-MAGA” voters win, of yet another January 6 in the wings, and of the dangers of “semi-fascist” Trump.

There will be more pre-election October surprises, such as the spurious narrative that the man who assaulted Paul Pelosi – David DePape – was a captive of right-wingers. Who knew that the hemp-jewelry maker, illegal alien, nudist, and resident of a BLM/Pride-flagged commune was supposedly addled by “un-American” Trumpism?

There will also be more post-election, November surprises — like the mysteriously sudden discovery just days after the voting that Sam Bankman-Fried was a multibillion-dollar con artist and huge Democratic Party donor, and the appointment of special counsel to investigate Trump.

Who would have known that prior to November 8, Trump’s Mar-a-Lago presidential papers proved neither “nuclear secrets” nor designed for his personal sale after all?

Yet the only mystery will be why Republicans will still be shocked by déjà vu.

1.3.26 Since Dobbs Decision Leak, Violence Against Pro-Lifers Was Over 22 Times That Against Pro-Choicers (2022-11-29 23:53)

After the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade leaked on May 3rd, news reports blamed abortion-related violence over the summer on pro-life supporters.

“[W]e have seen a steady rise in violence and harassment against providers from anti-abortion extremists who continue to be emboldened by the Supreme Court’s decision,” claimed Melissa Fowler, Chief Program Officer of the National Abortion Federation (NAF).

“People want me dead’: abortion providers fear violence after Roe overturned,” a headline in The Guardian read. Other news outlets, such as NBC News, also focused on the increased threat of violence against abortion providers. But national news sources don’t mention violence against people on the pro-life side of the debate.

It never made much sense, anyway. Why would a major win in the Supreme Court cause pro-life people to suddenly resort to more violence? The pro-choice people would be more upset and, presumably, more likely to lash out.

Using news searches and pre-existing data, the Crime Prevention Research Center, which I head, identified 135 attacks on pro-life entities and people between May 3 and September 24, 2022. By contrast, only six cases involve attacks on pro-choice people. That is a ratio of 22-to-1. And that may be an underestimate of the difference if the media is less likely to cover violence against pro-lifers.

All of the cases and links to the underlying news stories are available [here](#).

To search for cases, we used keywords such as “Anti-abortion attacks,” “Attacks on Abortion Providers,” “Violence to the abortion clinic,” “Pro-abortion attacks,” and “Attacks on pregnancy centers.” Other sources that listed cases included the Catholic News Agency and the House Republican Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Many news stories cite the National Abortion Federation’s tracking of attacks on abortion providers. We reached out to the NAF for a list of cases. When we called, the NAF directed us to email the DC Abortion Fund (DCAF). Between October 10 and October 25, we emailed the NAF and DCAF seven times. While we received responses indicating receipt of our messages, we still haven’t received a list of cases.

We then reached out to reporters who had cited the NAF. Decca Muldowney of the Daily Beast informed us that she also didn’t see a list from the NAF, though it doesn’t appear that she asked for it.

The media just uncritically accepts claims of violence by pro-lifers. Surprisingly, the reporters didn’t even try to dig for current examples to provide to readers.

The US Department of Justice keeps an up-to-date list of recent violence cases against reproductive health care providers. But since the leak of the Dobbs decision, the DOJ has added only one case to its list: a case of property damage against a Planned Parenthood facility in July. This year, the Biden administration has been actively searching for cases to bring federal action against but has had to go back years to get many cases the US DOJ doesn’t collect cases of violence or property damage against pro-life individuals or organizations.

Unfortunately, the media’s misleading emphasis on right-wing violence isn’t unique to the abortion debate. The CPRC’s past research has shown that the news media has engaged in a similar false narrative of white supremacists doing mass public shootings.

Many anti-immigrant attackers, such as the Buffalo murderer, hold decidedly environmentalist views that are more in line with the Democrat agenda.

Of the 82 mass public shootings from January 1998 to May 2021, 9 percent have known or alleged ties to white supremacists, neo-Nazis, or anti-immigrant views. And many of the anti-immigrant attackers, such as the Buffalo mass murderer earlier, hold decidedly environmentalist views that are more in line with the Democrat agenda. Indeed, non-Middle Eastern whites are underrepresented, making up about 64 % of the general population but 58 % of the mass public shooters.

For example, In the Buffalo murderer’s manifesto, the gunman self-identifies as an “eco-fascist national socialist” and a member of the “mild-moderate authoritarian left.” He expresses concern that minority immigrants have too many children and will damage the environment. But if the mass murderer is a racist, the news media automatically classifies him as a racist.

Political violence is central to so much of the political debate in the US. As Democrat fortunes wane in the midterm elections, President Biden and others in his party have rallied supporters by emphasizing the threat of violence from conservatives. But Democrats can’t risk admitting the truth.

1.3.27 China and the Democratic Party: Power Is Intoxicating (2022-11-29 23:54)

Lord Acton's dictum is well-known: "Power tends to corrupt, absolute power corrupts absolutely." Another way of saying that is "power is intoxicating." It is difficult for you and me, who have no power and don't really crave it, to understand just how addictive power can be, probably worse than any drug ever created. It is true even in America. Charles Grassley, 88 years old, ran for another 6-year term in the Senate this year. Pelosi is over 80, Biden is 80 and talking about running again in 2024. Dianne Feinstein is, what, 89, and probably can't find her way to the bathroom. How many of the people in Congress are over 70 or 80 and ought to be home playing with their great-grandchildren?

But they have power. And they...just...can't...give it up.

That's the dangerous, intoxicating nature of power, especially in the hands of evil people, and it isn't unique to America. It has happened throughout history, all over the world.

The problem with people in power is they often reach a point where they think they can do no wrong, or that they will never lose it. But as I noted in my [1]previous column, there is really no such thing as "absolute power." No ruler can do ANYTHING; he can't kill every noble or all the people. He must make some concessions, or he will be overthrown.

I mentioned a few examples in my earlier post. Louis XVI in France, Nicholas II in Russia, George III as king over America, the Qing Dynasty in China—the list in history is endless. These regimes all became so corrupt, so tyrannical, that they eventually pushed the people to revolution. Often, what the country ends up with is worse than what it had. The French Revolution produced Napoleon. The Russian Revolution generated Lenin, Stalin, the USSR, and spawned many other communist dictatorships around the world; and Marxist-hatched, murdering Leftism remains the greatest plague in existence. Gloriously, the USSR collapsed in the early 1990s, but Russia now has Putin. The Chinese Revolution eventually created Mao Zedong, the greatest mass murderer in human history, and now Xi Jinping, who apparently wants to rival Mao in the number of deaths he is responsible for. The American Revolution was the exception. We had remarkable leaders who produced the greatest country the world has ever known.

But, for all their efforts to write a Constitution that would protect the American people from power-obsessed demagogues, our Founders did not totally succeed. And Joe Biden and the current Democratic Party are proof of that. They ignore the Constitution, and get their cohorts in media and academia to attack it vociferously in hopes that they can convince enough people that the document is illegitimate. And then, the Democrats can rule with authoritarian autocracy. It has been working. But how long will it last? Millions and millions of Americans—but not enough yet—are finally realizing what is happening. Check your six, Joe.

Eventually, the worst tyrants either destroy themselves (Hitler) or are overthrown (the USSR). The situation in China today is exemplary. Xi Jinping, just last month, was able to make himself dictator for life. He is, far and away, the most powerful ruler in China since Mao Zedong. And, as often happens to autocrats, he thinks he can do no wrong, that he is politically invulnerable, that he can do anything he wants, and that the people will have to submit.

Well, the people of China may not agree with him.

"Step Down CCP! Step Down Xi Jinping!": Protests Erupt Across China Over COVID-19 Curbs." Such was the headline on a November 27 article in Epoch Times. Ten people burned to death a few days ago in an apartment complex fire in the western city of Urumqi because they were

locked down in their building and couldn't get out. That news escaped CCP censors long enough to set the whole country ablaze.

The Covid-19 lockdowns have nothing to do with COVID, of course, and everything to do with Xi telling the Chinese people that he is the absolute authority and they WILL obey. I still have a lot of contacts in China, so I talk to people. They must be careful what they say on social media, but they are not happy. And protests are now exploding all over. I lived through some of those lockdowns earlier this year in China. They are irritating, to say the least, and worse, unnecessary. Many Chinese people know it and are saying "Enough!"

People need to eat, work, earn money, have some measure of freedom to move around and live normal lives. Xi is telling the Chinese people, in no uncertain terms, that HE will decide when they are allowed to do those things. Xi Jinping is a classic case of the intoxicating nature of power, of the corruption of tyranny. Biden and the Democrats are silent about the Chinese protests because what Xi is doing is exactly what they want to do in America. Since the fall of the USSR, China has become the Left's modern totalitarian model.

What will happen in China? Can the people overthrow communism—and believe me, a lot of them want to. There are millions in China who are sick of it. I know that from personal conversations, too. But what can the people do? They will need some help—the police, the military, some strong clique in Beijing that opposes Xi. None of that is in evidence right now. But nobody, outside the CCP, truly knows what is going on inside.

Currently, Xi Jinping gives no indication of relaxing, even the least amount, his "zero-COVID policy." He may have to, but if he does, he will find a face-saving method to do it. Pray for the Chinese people, folks, that they can escape that monstrous, godless, murdering tyranny that has oppressed them for almost 75 years now.

And the Democrats better keep their eyes on China—for their own sakes.

1. <https://townhall.com/columnists/marklewis/2022/11/28/china-and-the-democratic-party-i-gradual-creeping-tyranny-leads-to-n2616434>

1.3.28 Biden Again Wants to Ban Semi-Automatic Guns. When Will Fact-Checkers Apologize? (2022-11-29 23:55)

"The idea we still allow semi-automatic weapons to be purchased is sick," President Biden [1]claimed

on Thanksgiving Day. "It has no socially redeeming value. Zero. None. Not a single solitary rationale for it except profit for the gun manufacturers."

With mass public shootings in just the last week in Colorado and Virginia, people naturally want to do something to stop these attacks.

But semi-automatic guns provide critical self-defense benefits. After each shot, a semi-automatic gun reloads itself. A single-shot gun, by contrast, requires manual reloading. This can prove a liability, especially against multiple attackers.

In places where they were allowed to carry, law-abiding citizens stopped [2]over 50 % of shootings. The Virginia attack sadly took place in a gun-free zone (an employees' only section of the Walmart).

Biden's statement comes [3]just a day after Justin Trudeau's government introduced new legislation to ban all semi-automatic rifles and shotguns in Canada.

Neither leader seems to understand that armed, law-abiding citizens make it riskier for criminals to commit crime. But Biden never seemed to grasp the value of deterrence. He hasn't criticized the progressive prosecutors who refuse to prosecute violent criminals, the judges who have released large numbers of inmates from jails, or the bail reform measures that immediately put violent repeat criminals back on the street.

Biden's statement on guns is extreme. Over [4]22 million Americans have concealed handgun permits, and that's not counting the millions who legally carry without a permit in 24 states.

The vast majority of handguns sold in this country are semi-automatic. In 2018, [5]almost 3.9 million semi-automatic handguns were manufactured in the U.S., compared to fewer than 700,000 revolvers. So, about 85 percent of all handguns made were semi-automatics. A similar percentage holds true for rifles.

Biden's statement on Thursday implicated a far wider range of guns than the news media lets on. And this was no slip of the tongue from Biden.

Earlier this year in New York, Biden said of Glock handguns, "I don't see any rationale to why there should be such a weapon able to be purchased." At a CNN town hall last year, he [6]declared, "Whether it's a 9-millimeter pistol or whether it's a rifle—is ridiculous. I'm continuing to push to eliminate the sale of those things."

Biden held these views long before he became president. At a high-dollar private fundraiser in Seattle in 2019, he [7]asked, "Why should we allow people to have military-style weapons, including pistols with 9-mm bullets that can hold ten or more rounds?"

Each time, the fact-checkers such as [8]Politifact and [9]USA Today have used verbal gymnastics to try to dismiss the claim that Biden wants to ban all semi-automatic guns.

After the Nov. 20 Colorado nightclub shooting, Biden promised to "[10]get weapons of war off America's streets." But in July, the Associated Press's influential Stylebook finally [11]acknowledged that terms such as "assault weapon" and "weapons of war" convey "little meaning" and are "highly politicized." The guns that Biden was talking about are "designed for the civilian market" and certainly not used by any militaries.

The much-maligned AR-15 functions exactly the same as any small caliber semi-automatic hunting rifle – firing the same bullets, with the same rapidity, and doing the same damage.

Semi-automatic guns are of course dangerous and make it easier to kill people. But they also enable people to protect themselves and others. When Biden says that he can't see "a single, solitary rationale," he shows his ignorance of the importance of self-defense. Unlike Biden, the rest of us aren't guarded by an army of secret service agents.

Before compromising our rights to self-defense, the burden should be on the government to prove a rationale for its gun control laws. Just last year, when Federal Judge Roger Benitez struck down California's "assault weapon" ban, he [12]concluded that the state's experts, who summarized the existing research, could not provide any evidence that the prohibition actually reduced any type of violent crime.

We need to fight back against mass shootings, not disarm ourselves.

1. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/critics-erupt-biden-sick-comment-semi-automatic-gun-purchases-sheer-ignorance>

2. <https://crimeresearch.org/2022/10/massive-errors-in-fbis-active-shooting-reports-regarding-cases-where-c>

ivilians-stop-attacks-instead-of-4-4-the-correct-number-

3. <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/lilley-trudeau-targets-hunters-with-gun-bill-changes-that-assault-canadian-heritage>
 4. <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4279137>
 5. <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/report/2020-firearms-commerce-report/download>
 6. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/07/22/remarks-by-president-biden-in-a-cnn-town-hall-with-don-lemon/>
 7. <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/speaking-at-the-house-of-amazon-joe-biden-gently-raises-companys-role-in-middle-class-job-losses/#comments>
 8. <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2021/jul/22/national-house-republicans/no-joe-biden-doesnt-want-ban-handguns/>
 9. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2021/08/25/fact-check-biden-didnt-gift-taliban-weapons/8197978002/>
 10. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/11/20/statement-by-president-biden-on-the-deadly-shooting-in-colorado-springs/>
 11. <https://twitter.com/APStylebook/status/1547309549488640000>
 12. https://crimeresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Miller_v_Bonta_Opinion.pdf
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1.3.29 A New Front in the Fight to Stop the Spread of Woke ESG Standards Has Been Opened (2022-11-29 23:56)

There's a new front being opened in the fight to keep harmful ESG standards from being forced on American companies by powerful holding entities such as BlackRock, Vanguard, and State Street which use Americans' hard-earned dollars to force the implementation of woke policies. On Tuesday, Consumers' Research and 13 state attorneys general filed motions with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission seeking to stop ESG-pushing Vanguard from being allowed to gobble up shares of publicly traded utility companies. If Vanguard were to acquire shares in those companies, they could then begin forcing ESG standards that include "net-zero" emissions goals to "decarbonize" the economy by force — something Vanguard has been caught doing before.

AGs from Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah signed the motion to "intervene and protest the application filed by The Vanguard Group, Inc. and its affiliated entities and subsidiaries (collectively, Vanguard), which requests a blanket authorization under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act ("FPA") for acquisitions of voting securities of publicly traded utilities."

The attorneys general further argued in their motion that granting Vanguard's application is "contrary to the public interest" and cited the asset manager's "own public commitments and other statements that have at the very least created the appearance that Vanguard has breached its promises to the Commission by engaging in environmental activism and using its financial influence to manipulate the activities of the utility companies in its portfolio."

"Consumers across our country are already feeling the sting of skyrocketing electricity bills, and Vanguard's request to extend its authorization, coupled with its commitment to imposing net-zero requirements on publicly traded utilities, would only increase these costs," remarked Kentucky AG Daniel Cameron. "Kentuckians and Americans deserve access to affordable and reliable utilities, and we will oppose any effort that will undermine Kentucky's economy, destroy good paying jobs, and make it harder for Kentuckians to heat their homes and feed their families," he added.

Under the previous 2019 authorization from FERC, Vanguard gave “assurances” that it “would refrain from investing ‘for the purpose of managing’ utility companies” and “guaranteed that it would not seek to ‘exercise any control over the day-to-day management’ of utility companies nor take any action ‘affecting the prices at which power is transmitted or sold.’”

The motion filed by Consumers’ Research made similar points about the concerning way in which Vanguard wields influence over the companies in which it invests. “In its own words, Vanguard takes a ‘results-oriented’ approach to engaging its portfolio companies,” the motion noted. “That includes pushing for leadership changes, voting on shareholder proposals, and demanding compliance with Vanguard’s ‘expectations’ on political projects ‘such as climate change or diversity.’ Consumers’ Research is particularly concerned that Vanguard’s actions, along with those of other global investment managers such as BlackRock Inc. and State Street Corporation, actively harm U.S. consumers by driving up energy prices.”

Will Hild, the executive director of Consumers’ Research, explained that his group “took this action on behalf of American energy consumers because time and time again we see massive Wall Street firms pretending to ‘passively’ manage their shares, but instead they use those assets to bully utility companies into adopting radical left-wing policies that drive up electric bills and risk the stability of our power grid,” reminded Hild. “Affordable, reliable energy production is the foundation of America’s economy and the quality of life we enjoy. FERC’s job is to defend utilities from exactly this type of reckless interference,” he noted. “They should act to protect these utilities and American consumers from fat cat wall street wreckers who blithely endanger our electricity supply.”

The motions come after some FERC commissioners sought answers from Vanguard earlier this year about how it wields power over companies in which its invested. In August, two commissioners [1] requested information from Vanguard over concerns that the asset manager had attempted to use its power to “influence utility generation mixes through its stock ownership.”

1. <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/ferc-vanguard-utility-stock-power-climate-esg/629579/>

1.3.30 Analyst predicts rare decline in video game market (2022-11-30 00:00)

The global video game market will shrink in 2022, according to a new industry analysis that blames multiple factors.

Why it matters: If correct, it’ll prove that gaming, which surged at the onset of the pandemic, doesn’t operate in a bubble.

Researchers at Ampere Analysis predict a 1.2 % market decline for the year, from \$191 billion to \$188 billion.

For context, growth had been rapid for years, rocketing up from \$95 billion in 2015, according to Ampere.

Between the lines: The expected downturn is blamed on declines in most major gaming sectors and the impact of “heavy inflation, with an increasing cost-of-living squeeze.”

Ampere sees mobile gaming taking a 1.3 % hit, down to \$111 billion due to revamped privacy settings that have stymied established advertising and user acquisition models.

PC gaming had dipped due to the pandemic’s closure of gaming cafes in Asia and bounced back, but it faces cannibalization from mobile gaming. The console market is pegged for a slight drop due to hardware manufacturing woes and game delays.

Ampere only predicts growth in cloud subscription services, to \$300 million, but it's a meager portion of the overall industry.

What they're saying: "The idea that the games market is 'recession proof' is a fallacy," states the Ampere report.

But it also notes that gaming offers a high value for money spent, offering some hope that cash-strapped people will still find it worthwhile to play and pay.

In May, Take Two chairman Strauss Zelnick offered a similar take. He told investors that gaming "will be affected by an overall slowdown," but noted that the industry wasn't hit as hard as others in 2009.

Last week, Nintendo president Shuntaro Furukawa shared a rosier view with stockholders: "In terms of the impact of global inflation on our current business, our entertainment business generally has not been affected by macroeconomic considerations." He noted reports about inflation in Europe and the U.S. but said they didn't have a "major effect on our sales at the moment."

1.3.31 Videogame sales heading for decline in U.S., but one analyst sees a 2023 rebound (2022-11-30 00:05)

Videogames are heading for a U.S. sales decline in 2022, but a looming recession and new releases could turbocharge a rebound in 2023, according to one analyst.

Stifel analyst Drew Crum said he estimates U.S. videogame sales to decline 6 % to \$57 billion in 2022, benchmarked against data from NPD Group. That contrasts with videogame data-research firm Newzoo's estimate of 2 % growth, Crum said.

Meanwhile, worldwide videogame-sector sales are forecast to squeak on by with year-over-year growth of 0.4 % to \$275 billion, according to IDC analyst Lewis Ward. The IDC analyst includes data in his figures that some analysts do not, such as ad revenue from mobile games, which Ward expects to rise 13 % to \$36.2 billion annually worldwide.

2022 was always expected to be a weak year, compared with 2021's pandemic-driven sales. That not only makes 2023 comps slightly better, but Crum said that videogames also have an edge in that during a recession they become more of a go-to form of entertainment.

"We view videogames as an inexpensive form of entertainment that should 'hold up' in a period of macro weakness, and companies that develop and launch compelling content have a better chance of engaging with and monetizing across their respective player communities," Crum said. Crum thinks sector earnings can grow in 2023, with U.S.-based third-party console publishers seeing 40 % or more growth.

That reflects "a stronger slate and easier comps from Activision Blizzard Inc., and a stronger slate and full year of contributions from Zynga for Take-Two Interactive Inc.," said Crum, who considers Take-Two [1]TTWO, +0.09 % one of his top picks because 24 immersive core titles are planned for release between 2023 and 2025.

The Stifel analyst thinks Electronic Arts Inc.

[2]EA, -0.44 %

should also hold up well because of the composition of its portfolio, "with sports representing more than 60 % of the company's net bookings, a genre that's perennial in nature and hence

may offer greater consistency in what can be a 'hit-driven biz.'" Crum has a buy rating on EA, and said his buy rating on Activision

[3]ATVI, -0.51 %

[4]assumes its acquisition by Microsoft Corp.

[5]MSFT, -0.59 % is a done deal.

also downgraded Ubisoft Entertainment SA

[6]UBI, -0.64 %

shares to a hold rating because he expects the company's outlook to be "overly ambitious," and that a recently

[7]increased ownership stake

by Tencent Entertainment Co. Ltd.

[8]419, -0.70 %

lessens the likelihood of it being acquired anytime soon.

Year to date, Take-Two shares are down 35 % and EA shares are down 11 %, while Activision shares, which have spent most of that time awaiting closure of the Microsoft acquisition, are up 16 %. Ubisoft shares trading on the Paris Stock Exchange are down 29 %. In comparison, the S & P 500 index [9]SPX, -0.16 % is down 21 %, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index [10]COMP, -0.59 % is down 29 % this year.

1. https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/stock/TTWO?mod=MW_story_quote

2. https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/stock/EA?mod=MW_story_quote

3. https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/stock/ATVI?mod=MW_story_quote

4. https://www.marketwatch.com/story/microsoft-bets-on-the-metaverse-with-69-billion-deal-for-activision-blizzard-11642515657?mod=article_inline

5. https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/stock/MSFT?mod=MW_story_quote

6. https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/stock/UBI?countryCode=FR&mod=MW_story_quote

7. https://www.marketwatch.com/story/tencent-buys-stake-in-holding-behind-assassin-s-creed-maker-ubisoft-271662483216?mod=article_inline

8. https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/stock/419?countryCode=HK&mod=MW_story_quote

9. https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/index/SPX?mod=MW_story_quote

10. https://www.marketwatch.com/investing/index/COMP?mod=MW_story_quote

1.3.32 Nintendo Switch Pro tech specs (2022-11-30 00:31)

For a while we'd thought the Nintendo Switch Pro rumors has withered on the vine, but a leaked Nvidia DLSS source code has what looks like reference to a new Switch. And this could be the Switch Pro.

Even if all this ends up being way off the mark, though, we still feel there could be an upgraded take of the Nintendo Switch on the cards. The current hardware isn't the most modern, and some games are becoming more demanding.

As such, here's what we know so far and would like to see from the Nintendo Switch Pro, even if it's just fanciful thinking.

Latest Nintendo Switch Pro news

A new Nvidia leak seemingly confirms the existence of the Tegra239 SoC — widely rumored to be powering the Switch Pro

These are the things we'd want Nintendo to improve for the next Switch.

An insider with a history of leaking accurate information has claimed the Nintendo Switch Pro will release in the first half of next year.

Nintendo Switch Pro release date and price speculation

Last year, Nintendo has basically hammered home that there's not going to be a Switch Pro. Its president, Shuntaro Furukawa, also said in a recent interview that there's no new Switch coming in its upcoming financial year, which runs to March 2023. Yet the Japanese gaming giant has stopped short of 100 %, copper-bottom denying that there's some work going on around an upgraded Switch console.

This denial hasn't stopped leaker from tipping the console for release in the next few months. Nate the Hate, who does have a history of reliable insider information, has indicated that the Nintendo Switch Pro is set to release in the first half of next year.

And apparently, developer kits for an upgraded Switch console were given out at some point. But there's a chance these could be for a second-generation Switch or Nintendo console. As it stands, there's basically no hard evidence that a Switch Pro is coming; equally, it's difficult to pour water on these smoldering rumors that keep popping up.

Furthermore, Piers Harding-Rolls of Ampere Analysis has said that "Ampere is currently forecasting a next-gen Nintendo device to release in 2024."

Sources seem to offer different reports of what sort of specs we can expect to see in the Switch Pro. The majority of them appear to agree that we're likely to see support for 4K resolutions in docked mode, as well as better battery life.

Currently, the Nintendo Switch features a custom Nvidia Tegra X1 processor, a 720p LCD display and 32GB of storage. The most recent refresh of the Nintendo Switch happened in August 2019, which bumped up the battery life, taking it from 6.5 hours to 9 hours of game time. When we tested the battery life upgrade using Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, we found that the amount of game time we were able to fit in before it needed to be recharged doubled.

A report from Bloomberg, citing insider information, also has the Switch Pro tipped to offer a 4K output in some form of docked mode. Likely when docked, the Switch Pro will have some form of co-processor to upmix a 1080p video feed into a 4K output.

Furthermore, a newer probe into Switch firmware has revealed the line "4kdp _preferred _over _usb30" that could indicate the potential for a 4K output over DisplayPort over USB 3.0.

Bloomberg([opens in new tab](#)) has also reported that 11 developers are in possession of 4K toolkits supplied by Nintendo. This would strongly imply that Nintendo is at least thinking about releasing a Switch that can output in 4K. Although, Nintendo did quickly release a statement([opens in new tab](#)) denying the accuracy of the reporting.

In an exclusive interview with Ross Young, co-founder and CEO of Display Supply Chain Consultants, discussed with us the potential for the Switch Pro to have an OLED display and what advantages and shortcomings the tech could provide.

“LCDs use a maximum brightness, whether it’s a white or black image. And OLEDs don’t,” said Young. “Their power consumption varies with the content. So it’s going to depend on the type of content that you’re playing. If it’s video, OLEDs have a big advantage. But if it’s a bright video game with a lot of white, then OLEDs may consume more power.”

Some rumors seem to suggest that the Switch Pro might have some more controversial features, too. In a now-deleted 4Chan post (via Inverse([opens in new tab](#))), user Xhyll alleged that according to a “former employee of Nintendo,” the Switch Pro will feature significant hardware improvements, including a custom Nvidia Tegra Xavier processor, 64GB SSD storage and 4K support.

The obvious downside here is that the post also suggested that the new console will be a TV-only system aimed primarily at users who are in the market for a more traditional console experience. Considering that some Switch gamers spend the majority of their time in handheld mode, this seems somewhat unlikely.

Some rumors have suggested that NVIDIA’s Tegra239 system on chip will power the Switch Pro. The latest leak suggests that this chip does exist and will come with an 8-core CPU. Reddit users have speculated this would make the Switch Pro about as powerful as a PS4 — which would be a disappointment.

What we want from the Nintendo Switch Pro

If Nintendo were to make a Switch Pro then here are the features we’d love to see make their way to the premium console.

Improved 1080p handheld display: Considering the ongoing rumor mill, a display upgrade seems likely. At the moment, using the Switch in handheld mode restricts you to a 6.2-inch 720p display, so many users would welcome a better visual experience when gaming on the go (please, Nintendo).

Sturdier build quality: One of the biggest reasons some Switch owners prefer the Lite to the base model is due to the sturdiness of the console in handheld mode. Since the Joy-Cons of the original Switch are detachable, playing on the go can feel somewhat flimsy, and this is something that we’d like to see improved in the Pro version. A more ergonomic Joy-Con design would go a long way too.

4K support in docked mode: The 4K console gaming community is growing by the day, and you can partially thank the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series for that. Unfortunately, comparisons with new-gen consoles don’t do the Switch any favors - Nintendo’s flagship console no longer provides the visuals gamers want. As we recently discussed, introducing 4K support and a more powerful dock with higher resolution capabilities would considerably improve Nintendo’s offering.

Bluetooth support for third-party accessories: Although the Switch currently features Bluetooth 4.1, this is reserved exclusively for wirelessly connecting Joy-Cons and Pro controllers. This means that in order to connect accessories like headphones, you need an adapter, which is admittedly annoying.

1.4 December

1.4.1 News Nets Avoid Twitter Files Due to Their Suppression of the Hunter Laptop Fiasco (2022-12-05 19:16)

It has barely been three days since Elon Musk sent the press industry into a shame spiral by releasing a series of documents exposing a rigged moderating system inside Twitter. There has been no shortage of journalists denying, deflecting, dismissing, or disparaging the effort by Musk. But even with all of the histrionics seen in the press, it has not been blanketed coverage by the news networks.

As the files sizzled across social media and biased journalists weighed in with wild defense strategies, many of the major news outlets refrained from even covering the story. The broadcast news divisions fell mute on the matter, and some of the major papers were also notably reticent in reporting. This alone is noteworthy, as these outlets rely on Twitter hysterics for clicks and spent years obsessing over President Trump's then-active account.

Yep, I checked. As of 9:45am this morning, not a single mention of the Twitter revelations on the main pages of @nytimes or @washingtonpost. pic.twitter.com/SNb5F2hd5U
— Athan Koutsouroumbas (@Athan_K) December 3, 2022

But it is also understandable why these sources refrained from coverage. Most are culpable in their contribution to the main controversy in the Twitter document dump, namely the suppression of the Hunter Biden laptop story. For many of these outlets, reporting on the contents of Elon's files would mean they would be compelled to address the prior stances they took on the story.

Eventually, we were served select individuals making excuses for their employers. At National Public Radio, media correspondent David Folkenflik responded to a comment by Miranda Devine of the New York Post regarding the past non-coverage at NPR. "NPR actively & repeatedly sought the files said to be from the laptop from multiple sources," he claims. This, of course, flies in the face of the rather (in)famous stance of NPR at the time when the news division boldly proclaimed that they would not cover the Hunter laptop story out of deference of wasting the time of their listeners.

Folkenflik's quote also defies another source at NPR – himself. When the story was active, David was dismissive, taking the position that the laptop emanating from Rudy Giuliani was a sign of him "peddling stuff" and the evidence said to be "allegedly" originating from Hunter Biden. The sheer lack of curiosity would explain why they never obtained direct evidence.

The New York Times is also understandably quiet on the news, given they, too, were adherents of the laptop being not worth their while. Townhall's friend from Newsbusters, Tim Graham, brought up a video put out by The Times' editorial division which explained that Jose

Biden had prevailed in the election by not engaging in the "nuttiness" of the "conspiracy," rising above the scurrilous narrative of the laptop, as they described it as a "boobytrap."

FLASHBACK: See how the @nytimes Opinion folks trashed the Hunter Biden laptop scoop as "conspiracy theories and lies" – like Birtherism and Pizzagate! – in a Feb. 4, 2021 video on how Biden beat Trump.

Biden won by "not engaging with the nuttiness."<https://t.co/yJmcEC9CQZ>
[pic.twitter.com/oEYlgICL4Z](https://t.co/yJmcEC9CQZ)

— Tim Graham (@TimJGraham) December 5, 2022

This was released three months after the election, showing just how long The Paper Of Record would cling to the false presentation of this news item. It would not be for another full year before The Times would confirm the contents of the computer were legitimate. Certainly, with that record – or the lack thereof – the resistance to revisiting the coverage makes sense.

Making less sense, out of a sense of desperation, is the fact-finding duo at the Washington Post, Glenn Kessler and Philip Bump. In attempting to explain away the Post showing distinct avoidance of the laptop, Bump states that what was holding them back was a lack of obtaining physical evidence: A major reason why other outlets didn't match the NY Post's original laptop story: they weren't given access to the laptop data! Bump sounds ridiculous while pretending that news outlets do not run unverified stories from other outlets regularly, if not daily.

Kessler, the fact-checking authority at the paper, joined in to support his cohort on this daft approach. Even if the claim was accurate when he stated the Post obtained the evidence, they did not publicly confirm things until this March, and the ensuing coverage of the contents has not been especially energetic.

Not until mid-2021 did a source provide The Washington Post a copy of the hard drive. Then my colleagues went immediately work on it. We hired experts to assess the veracity and produced articles based on material that could be verified. <https://t.co/ERaFoPLwel>
<https://t.co/330JZculDa>

— Glenn Kessler (@GlennKesslerWP) December 5, 2022

One aspect stands out in Philip Bump's insistence that they were merely adhering to strict editorial standards. His call for firm evidence before reporting did not extend to his approach of the storyline that the laptop contents were the work of Russian disinformation. It is apparent that Bump's requirement to be in possession of definable evidence evaporated when this component of the storyline appeared.

Such a lame deflection that it is disproven by @PBump himself.

Phil, if you did not report it because you had no access then why did you push the Russian disinformation angle on the story, when there was ZERO evidence of that? You had no access to proof that does not exist. <https://t.co/2rctUXDfxO> [pic.twitter.com/wPpib1xS2A](https://t.co/2rctUXDfxO)

— Brad Slager: Polling For Soup (@MartiniShark) December 5, 2022

To this day, there exists absolutely nothing in terms of evidence or proof that a Russian disinformation program was behind the laptop story or its contents. The appearance of physi-

cal evidence did not warrant coverage of the story, but with nothing more than a contrived letter from the partisan intelligence community that all but said, "Well...it feels like Russian disinformation," journalists felt they were cleared from having to cover the story.

Now, once again, these outlets are presented with tangible evidence, and they are behaving in exactly the same manner. Rather than searching through the filings, they search for excuses for not reporting on the files. Once again, we have our media complex dispatching "The 5 Ws" and instead resting upon "The Big H": How can we justify not doing our jobs?

1.4.2 The Real Threats to the Republic (2022-12-05 19:18)

The midterm elections are over, save for the Senate runoff in Georgia. The progressive socialist leftists of the Democrat party, meaning all of them, realized that they had to shift the conversation and topic of the cycle. It could not be about the issues. They rolled out Joe Biden in Philadelphia who went on a delusional, maniacal, tirade and condemned millions of Americans as "threats to democracy." That became the rallying cry of the left. Now, here is the real absurdity of their deranged assertion. The Democrats were projecting their actions upon Republicans. The real and true threat to our constitutional republic, its representative democracy, and our democratic process is the party of the jackass.

The Democrats are the ones who wish to end the Senate filibuster, stack the Supreme Court, give illegal immigrants the right to vote, and collude with leftist big tech companies to suppress the free speech of any political opposition. If that does not constitute a threat to democracy tell me what does?

The problem is that this absurdity went unanswered by the Republican Party and its leadership consisting of the three Macs – McCarthy, McConnell, and McDaniel. Therefore, once again, the tactic of denigration, disparagement, and demonization worked for the left...and they will use it again.

Instead, the GOP, and conservatives, need to go on offense from now, and as long as need be, to turn the tables on the progressive socialist left. What we are witnessing in America is a daily attack on our Constitution that restricts the government from encroaching on our liberties. Each day, freedom is at risk, emanating from the Biden administration – the third presidential term of Barry Soetoro aka Barack Hussein Obama. The Biden administration is working against our rights, as outlined in the Bill of Rights, even as it also undermines our safety and sovereignty as a nation.

First, the open borders policy of the Biden administration undermines the sovereignty of the United States of America, a sovereign republic. As well, these actions are bringing forth not just millions of illegal immigrants into our country, but also resulting in the deaths of Americans. The fentanyl crisis, whereby we have seen over 100,000 Americans lose their lives, is a direct result of Biden's policy. On top of that, we are enduring an epidemic of human and sex trafficking which we are finding out the Biden administration is aiding and abetting – to the tune of billions of dollars in monthly revenue for the terrorist cartels.

Just this past month, there were some 73,000 reported "got aways" which adds to the over one million that have crossed into this nation, for whom we do not know their whereabouts or intent. We know that individuals on the terrorist watch list have been apprehended, 200. But how many others have not? And now we find out that the Biden administration is ordering U.S. Air Marshals to the border to do menial tasks such as prepare sandwiches and drive illegals...leaving our airlines without proper security.

This is an invasion and the Constitution mandates that the federal government protect the States from invasion – a clear violation of the obligation of allegiance to our legal order.

The Biden administration is also purposely undermining the readiness, capability, and capacity of our Armed Forces. Unless you think cultural Marxism is a vital component of our military readiness. Why do we have Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs, policies, and offices impacting our men and women in uniform? It appears more time is spent on proper pronoun usage than military preparedness, and that is confirmed by the Heritage Foundation report on Military Readiness, along with the recruiting and retention numbers for our military, which is beyond troubling. As well, Biden has stated that the pandemic is over, so why are we still discharging men and women from our Armed Forces who refuse to take a shot that we now know does not prevent anything...but is harmful in giving healthy servicemembers a heart condition called myocarditis?

The debacle of Afghanistan constitutes giving aid and comfort to our enemies, a designated terrorist organization, the Taliban. Who in their right mind could agree with leaving \$85 billion of military equipment in the hands of terrorists?

Who destroys their military and gives weapons to enemies and terrorists who have killed Americans? Answer-people following the mantra of Benedict Arnold.

Lastly, the right to equal protection under the law is a bedrock of our rights outlined in the Constitution. Yet, we are seeing it disintegrate before our eyes. While two leaders of the Oath Keepers were found guilty of conspiracy on January 6th, we ask how many leaders of Antifa, Black Lives Matter, or Jane's Revenge have been sought out and found guilty of the abhorrent acts of violence they have committed in America? Vice President Harris advocated for raising funds and getting violent protesters released from jail...with no charges. Since the inauguration day of Donald Trump, we have unchecked, organized leftist violence with no consequences. Heck, you can threaten Supreme Court Justices, as Senator Chuck Schumer did, and face no ramifications...as long as you are on the left.

When the very people who took an oath to support and defend the Constitution, breach that oath of allegiance, it is a very serious matter that must be addressed.

Those of us who speak up and out against the Biden administration are not "threats to democracy." No, we are a threat to leftist totalitarianism. We need to speak in these terms, at least those who possess the intestinal fortitude to do so...perhaps that is why there are those in the House GOP who do not support Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House?

No more allowing leftists to project their assaults on the Constitution and the American people. It is time we referred to them as who they are...progressivism, socialism, statism, Marxism, and communism are treasonous philosophies of governance. The case is not debatable.

Steadfast and Loyal.

1.4.3 Reflections from Rocky Top (2022-12-05 19:21)

I think we as a nation, Americans, need to step back and find a moment of peace and serenity in these times. And so, instead of the usual political punditry, I wanted to share my reflections from up here what we Tennessee graduates fondly refer to as "Rocky Top".

What am I thankful for?

I am thankful that I can travel anywhere across this beautiful Country. We should never take for granted the freedom of movement that we have in America, especially since we lost it two years ago. And there are still those who would seek to restrict that freedom all for their quest for power and control. I pray that we never allow vaccines or health passports to become part of our culture or our way of life here in America.

I am thankful to have been able to take my family, especially my little grandson, Jaxton Bernard, to my alma mater, the University of Tennessee, 40 years after I graduated from there. What a real blessing to see my little Jaxton run the field of Neyland Stadium and play in the orange and white checkerboard end zone. I hope that every parent and grandparent can have the opportunity to take their little ones back to their alma mater. As well, it was awesome to take the picture of my wife Angela and daughters Aubrey and Austen with the bronze statue of Tennessee women's basketball icon, Pat Summit, the epitome and embodiment of excellence, a role model for men and women.

I am thankful for the wonderful folks with whom I had the chance to meet and share greetings. Whether it was walking through Gatlinburg, being on the tramway heading up to Ober Gatlinburg, hiking the trails in the Smoky Mountain National Park, in the Food City in Gatlinburg, or walking along through Dollywood. And speaking of being in Dollywood, it was such a blessing to see parents caring for their disabled children. It reminded me that amid the beauty and splendor that God has given us here in these majestic mountains...the greatest beauty and splendor is God's gift of life. To know that there are parents who embrace their children with love, regardless of their condition, and seek to give them the best possible quality of life is humble and honorable.

Perhaps we should all take time to get away from the hustle and bustle of the cities and awake to the peace that surpasses all understanding. The Thanksgiving and Christmas season is a time for reflection and giving. However, it is also a time when we should realize that some are alone and their reflections can cause pain. And that can be a true reality for many of our veterans. We should not have any homeless and jobless Veterans in America. We should not have any veterans who feel left behind and abandoned by the country for which they were willing to give the last full measure of devotion. I can just imagine how therapeutic it would be for our men and women who served in uniform to walk the trails here in the Smoky Mountains and find that simple peace that they so desperately need.

As the plane takes off from Knoxville's McGhee-Tyson airport, I will look back down upon

the mountains and take a deep breath, reflecting on being back on Rocky Top. But I will be refreshed and recommitted to fight for and stand for all that makes our America this beautiful land of the free and home of the brave. We have so many great freedoms and they are worth protecting and defending. It is our duty to ensure these freedoms are passed down to our subsequent generations...that is our challenge.

I accept that challenge...will you?

Steadfast and Loyal.

1.4.4 The Left is Using Lawfare Including Threats of Prosecution to Ignore Massive Voter Disenfranchisement (2022-12-05 19:24)

We are living in an unprecedented era, where the left has now mastered voter disenfranchisement and suppression, largely by controlling the legal system where statutory violations and crimes normally would be stopped. Instead, the left comes up with excuses to explain away every anomaly, even though the statistical odds of all of them taking place — almost exclusively hurting Republicans — are unbelievable. Of the 70-plus vote centers in Maricopa County that were plagued by bizarre printing problems affecting people's ability to vote, almost every one was located in an extremely Republican area, averaging more than 300 percent more Republicans than Democrats.

The reports that have come out regarding Arizonans unable to vote are lengthy, clearly not just a few people but hundreds and likely thousands. The Election Integrity Network published a long list compiled from merely 96 people as well as GOP observer attorneys, and what they witnessed was horrific. One voter, who could not find parking quickly due to the long lines, showed up barely after the polls closed and was not allowed to vote, with police escorting him off the property.

Republicans have started filing election lawsuits over the strange outcome in Arizona, since no one believes that the top Trump-endorsed slate of candidates who were almost all leading in MSM polls lost. But the left is already ahead of the lawsuits, filing bar complaints against conservative election attorneys. The scary 65 Project, which basically seeks to stamp out conservatives from the practice of law, has been selectively filing ethics complaints against these attorneys. Since state bars are almost all controlled by the left, and many states have mandatory state bars, it's a no-brainer way to push through an illegal agenda like rubber stamping voter disenfranchisement.

The 65 Project is all over conservative election attorneys in Arizona. I'm the former Maricopa County Elections attorney, and it's like a who's who list of my colleagues in Arizona. Recent state bar complaints have been filed against Alex Kolodin, Dennis Wilenchik and his son Jack Wilenchik, Lee Miller, David Spilsbury, Christopher Viskovic and Kurt Olsen, who's been heavily involved in Arizona litigation including representing Kari Lake.

Other prominent attorneys around the country who they've filed complaints against (in states where there are no mandatory state bars, the complaints get filed with other types of grievance commissions) include Ted Cruz, Jenna Ellis, John Eastman, Joseph DiGenova, Cleta Mitchell of the Election Integrity Network, and numerous Republican attorneys general.

Does anyone really believe that a large number of conservative election attorneys happen to all be corrupt? Of course not. The bar complaints are a horrendous abuse of our justice system. No attorneys dare stand up for those attacked because it then puts a big target on their back. Non-attorneys aren't aware of how bad the abuses have become because it's a very technical area with lots of intricate and vague rules.

For example, the State Bar of Arizona's Rules of Professional Conduct has a vague, sweeping Ethical Rule 8.4 on Misconduct. You could fit anything you wanted to in here to disbar an attorney. It prohibits "conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation" and "conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice." It's a cinch for the left and their comrades in the media and running state bars to claim that attorneys suing over election fraud are being "dishonest."

These lawyers are the last bulwark standing in the way of massive voter disenfranchisement and suppression, it is imperative not to let them hang out to dry. We learned that lesson here in Maricopa County before in the early 2010s, when the Maricopa County Supervisors came after former Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas for teaming up with Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio to combat public corruption within offices like the supervisors. Instead of sending the supervisors to prison, the supervisors were able to get Thomas disbarred, and one got himself awarded \$3.5 million over the "stress" of being prosecuted.

In contrast, when Jesse Jackson Jr. did something similar in Chicago — spent tens of thousands of dollars raised for a political campaign on luxury items instead — he went to prison. Maricopa County has replaced Cook County as the most corrupt county in the country.

The left is so locked into its assertions that there is no massive election fraud that they even ignore the few incidents where Republicans were caught engaging in it. A Republican political operative in North Carolina was prosecuted over testimony that he ran an operation filling out hundreds of ballots for people and forging signatures, but the MSM barely covered it (he died before it went to trial).

It's all very strange since even a majority of Democrats believe election problems influenced the election in Arizona. A Rasmussen Reports poll found that a substantial 65 % of Democrats believe the problems likely or somewhat likely affected the outcome of the U.S. Senate race in Arizona. This isn't much different than 71 % of all likely voters who believe that. An even higher number of Democrats, 69 %, said they agree with Lake that many were deprived of their voting rights on Nov. 8.

Unfortunately, the left has convinced people that witness testimony no longer counts as "evidence" in election fraud cases, laughing at patriots when anxiety-prone judges find an easy technicality to throw out a case. Witness testimony alone has been used to send people to the death penalty, but the left has overturned jurisprudence here in an unprecedented trampling of our justice system. The left is also threatening to prosecute rural county supervisors who fight back.

If we do not stop the fraud, we will never see a Republican president again and the left will continue toppling red states like dominoes. The RINOs can complain all they want that the Trump-endorsed candidates lost because they were too Trumpian, not because they were

targeted with election fraud, but we all know history repeats itself, the left will come for the RINOs next.

1.4.5 America's Suicide (America is a Republic) (2022-12-10 20:30)

The following quote is one of the most piercing I have ever read, all the more so because it was written in 1787, almost 250 years ago (by a Scottish historian, Sir Alexander Fraser Tytler):

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse [generous amounts of money] from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship.

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through this sequence:

From Bondage to Spiritual Faith;

From Spiritual Faith to Great Courage;

From Courage to Liberty;

From Liberty to Abundance;

From Abundance to Complacency;

From Complacency to Apathy;

From Apathy to Dependence;

and From Dependence back into Bondage."

Of course, the men who founded America did not establish a democracy; they created a republic. But the country has, more and more over its history, evolved (devolved?) into a democracy, and while absolutes are hard to find in historical analysis, Sir Tytler's assessment is striking, especially given the date it was written. Let's examine it a little.

1. Democracies do not last long. They only last until they destroy themselves through careless and reckless policy, usually financial. Politicians use the public treasury, not for the nation's welfare, but to secure their positions by cajoling voters with their own money, thus gradually sinking a nation into a bottomless economic morass that is ultimately cataclysmic. The people panic and turn to a dictator. Such a process is, indeed, not unknown in history.

The problem that Sir Tytler hints at here is more clearly stated in Lord Acton's dictum "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely." Power is one of the most intoxicating—and certainly dangerous—commodities in human existence. Too often, people

of little character get it, love it, and don't want to give it up. Their small minds believe they can change the world, and that they know better how to run your life than you do. Most politicians, especially in a democracy, are mediocrities who really have no business being anywhere near power. The current Democratic Party's border policy is a perfect example. They care absolutely nothing about what is best for America; their only concern is remaining in power by importing new voters. Those who love power are the very kinds of people who should never have it, Democrat or Republican. They are con artists who, in a democracy, can hoodwink enough people of average or low intelligence (which is most people) to almost endlessly maintain their position. They have no knowledge, nor do they care, how to use power wisely, for the benefit of others. Democracy caters to mediocrity, and that is why it always fails. It takes excellence, not mediocrity, to successfully run a nation.

2. Look at Tytler's analysis of the progress of the rise and fall of nations: a. "From bondage to spiritual faith." All people start out under tyranny. But successful nations build a "spiritual faith," a realization that there is a Greater Excellence than themselves, an Excellence that inspires them to strive for virtuous heights previously unattained.

b. "From spiritual faith to great courage." Their confidence is not in themselves, they are led by that spiritual faith they possess. That faith spawns great courage.

c. "From courage to liberty." And that courage finally produces the overthrow of tyranny. Freedom!

d. "From liberty to abundance." In the beginning, that freedom based upon spiritual virtue produces hard work, a rise from the ashes, the creation of wealth and prosperity, a strong national character. The spiritual faith that guided them to freedom is not forgotten by the early generations, so the population remains brimming with virtue and strength, and uses that faith, courage, and liberty to overcome every obstacle.

e. "From abundance to complacency." But then, the decline begins. They become rich and want to enjoy that wealth. Succeeding generations forget the virtues that produced success. So, they get fat, lazy, and complacent. When "they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them...and will provoke Me." The God who led them turns against them. And hungrier mouths exist elsewhere...always exist elsewhere...

f. "From complacency to apathy." Apathy about the virtues that made them strong in the first place. Apathy about maintaining the character necessary to overcome obstacles. Apathy about diligence in protecting their freedoms. Apathy about what God had done for them. Apathy about everything but their own selfish, hedonistic pleasure. Utterly self-absorbed, they become easy prey for unscrupulous, power-hungry politicians.

g. "From apathy to dependence." No longer truly free, they become beholden to the political knaves who purchase their votes with the people's own money. No longer virtuous, their selfishness and moral nihilism produces a nation of effeminate, groveling dependents who can live only by theft or government gifts. Those who remember the way to greatness become outnumbered and outcasts, and must work harder and harder to support, not only themselves, but the parasites who think they deserve to live off them. And the political class loves it because the feeble, drifting, aimless masses can be easily bought off with bread and circuses. And the parasites will indeed protect that political class with its "votes" and dying

breath.

h. "From dependence back into bondage." Freedom, for everyone, eventually is lost as those hungrier mouths invade, steal, and conquer. And the crop of politicians who let it happen will all be long dead and gone.

Tytler wrote, "The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been two hundred years."

America, living on borrowed time, hasn't got long.

1.4.6 Inflation Surges Past Expectations Again (2022-12-10 20:36)

In one of the final economic reports of 2022, the Biden administration again saw the fruit of its "build back better" policy efforts in the Producer Price Index's hotter-than-expected read for November.

The PPI report — measuring inflation upstream from consumers — showed an increase of 0.3 percent in November's headline number for an advance of 7.4 percent over the previous 12 months while 7.2 percent PPI inflation had been the consensus estimate.

PPI for final demand advances 0.3 % in November; services rise 0.4 %, goods increase 0.1 % #BLSData #PPI <https://t.co/dyytPa3BcK>
— BLS-Labor Statistics (@BLS_gov) December 9, 2022

Among the items that drove inflation past estimates, specifically in the increased costs for final demand goods, was the index for fresh and dry vegetables that spiked 38.1 percent in November, while prices for eggs and meats also increased.

Notably, as seen in the chart below showing the PPI month-over-month changes, increases have moderated from their 40-year highs earlier in 2022 but the headline number has remained steady since the summer while core PPI inflation — excluding more-volatile food and energy prices for producers — is again turning upward.

Month to month rise in PPI shows core bouncing up a bit. pic.twitter.com/iTezCCqMa9
— Kathy Jones (@KathyJones) December 9, 2022

The PPI report for November sent market futures tumbling as worse-than-projected inflation numbers raised worries again of more aggressive interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve as the central bank fights to tame inflation. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell has said his goal is to get inflation back down to just two percent, but that achieving his goal would lead to more pain for Americans who are already struggling to make ends meet as real wages continue to trend negative.

BREAKING: November Producer Price Index comes in hotter than expected. Futures tumble. pic.twitter.com/hPOmoki5wU
— Squawk Box (@SquawkCNBC) December 9, 2022

The PPI read that surpassed estimates also stoked fears that next Tuesday's Consumer Price Index report will also show inflation running hotter than Wall Street expects as those data points routinely reflect the increased cost burden being carried by producers who must pass some of those increases on to the end consumer.

1.4.7 What Was the Border Patrol Union Thinking Posting This Tweet? (2022-12-13 21:29)

The Border Patrol Union has decided to pick a fight with the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and, in the process, set themselves ablaze. Either they haven't read the immigration legislation being pushed up on the Hill, or this was a self-own of epic proportions. It's a lengthy battle between the two sides' social media camps. Still, the casus belli is over the bill negotiated between Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ), which they think will help resolve this ongoing crisis at the border.

To make a long story short, it won't. It's loaded with window dressing that looks tough on immigration. Still, the pathway to citizenship for 2 million Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival recipients, plus their ability to sponsor their extended families once they're through the process, is just one massive 'come on in' sign at the border. It renders every border enforcement measure, which includes an expedited process for migrants who fail to meet asylum standards, moot. Also, that's another section of immigration law that needs to be reworked.

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"The LARGEST single group we have ever seen..."

With mass amnesty discussions heating up and Title 42 slated to end on December 21, things are about to get much, much worse. <https://t.co/IVh3vDe9O7>

— FAIR (@FAIRImmigration) December 12, 2022

Do Border Patrol agents deserve a raise? They sure do! We will continue fighting for one while OPPOSING AMNESTY and supporting reforms that end the crisis, not ones that give the Biden admin exactly what they want — the ability to process and release migrants en masse. @BPUnion

— FAIR (@FAIRImmigration) December 10, 2022

But back to the Border Patrol's taking a face full of buckshot—they dredged up an old FAIR tweet, where they tried to call out the immigration group for hypocrisy over a 2017 press release where they said, "Congress should seize this opportunity to come together and forge these much-needed reforms... If the Democrats fail to show up at the negotiating table, it raises the legitimate question of whether DACA is something that the Democrats really want."

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"Congress should seize this opportunity to come together and forge these much-needed reforms... If the Democrats fail to show up at the negotiating table, it raises the legitimate question of whether DACA is something that the Democrats really want..."

FAIR's Dan Stein in 2017. pic.twitter.com/p3JqVlrK97
— Border Patrol Union - NBPC (@BPUnion) December 12, 2022

None of those things, which could actually secure the border, are in this amnesty deal. @FAIRImmigration pic.twitter.com/tpbqgEKm7c

— Storm Paglia 🇺🇸 (@storm_paglia) December 12, 2022

Border Patrol didn't read the letter carefully because FAIR included provisions on border security that aren't included in this Tillis-Sinema legislation. The border wall is a key item FAIR supports regarding "real immigration reform." You can guess whether that measure is included in this amnesty push in Congress.

1.4.8 Elon Musk Pushes Back on the Left's Forced Pronoun Recognition (2022-12-13 21:30)

Over the weekend Twitter CEO Elon Musk called for the prosecution of Dr. Anthony Fauci while making a play on the left's demands for preferred pronoun recognition.

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My pronouns are Prosecute/Fauci
— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) December 11, 2022

That tweet prompted criticism from NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, brother of Arizona Democratic Senator Mark Kelly.

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.@elonmusk Elon, please don't mock and promote hate toward already marginalized and at-risk-of-violence members of the #LGBTQ+ community. They are real people with real feelings. Furthermore, Dr Fauci is a dedicated public servant whose sole motivation was saving lives. <https://t.co/Vgu04XMGeZ>

— Scott Kelly (@StationCDRKelly) December 12, 2022

Musk responded, pushing back against the issuance of pronouns and expectation they should be accepted.

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I strongly disagree. Forcing your pronouns upon others when they didn't ask, and implicitly ostracizing those who don't, is neither good nor kind to anyone.

As for Fauci, he lied to Congress and funded gain-of-function research that killed millions of people. Not awesome imo.

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) December 12, 2020

As for Dr. Fauci, Musk is correct. For years Fauci has been heavily involved in the frankensteining of dangerous viruses through "research." In fact, he was known as the "godfather of gain-of-function" research and scientists feared confronting him would result in the stripping of funding for their own research projects.

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"I often talk to scientists who say the same thing, that say, 'Listen, we really want to speak out about this, but we can't do it. Why can't we do it? Well, we get all of our funding from NIH, or NIAID... which is run by Dr. Fauci,'" he said on Kelly's podcast. "And so we can't say anything like 'Oh, gain-of-function research might be dangerous, or it might have come from a lab, because we're going to lose our careers, we're going to lose our funding, we're not going to be able to do the work.'"

"The head of the funding, the head of the entire field, really, is Anthony Fauci," he said. "He's the godfather of gain-of-function research as we know it. That, again, just what I said right there, is too hot for TV because people don't want to think about the fact that our hero of the pandemic... might also have been connected to this research, which might also have been connected to the outbreak."

Recommended

Former WHO Directors Slam Organization's Harm Reduction Stance, And with Good Cause
Martin Cullip

Fauci has been confronted a number times about his potential involvement in the COVID-19 pandemic by Republican Senator Rand Paul.

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11 labs in the US create these super-viruses in the US and one of them collaborated with Wuhan Virology Inst —Fauci has supported NIH funds for all these labs!

— Rand Paul (@RandPaul) May 11, 2021

1.4.9 Internet Injustice's Mass Victimization of Americans (2022-12-13 21:31)

It's today's rotten reality of minimal justice online. It's the out-of-control, mass-victimization of Americans via cybercrime, attacks, harassment, and fentanyl-deaths enabled by U.S. Internet unaccountability policy. It's also what goaded the Supreme Court to hear two Section 230 cases concerning Big Tech's criminal liability for hosting illegal activity.

Justice requires accountability. However, in 1996, a utopian U.S. Internet policy experiment of minimal accountability online disestablished justice online and thwarted the Constitution's first purpose to "establish justice."

In 1996, Congress declared the Internet, and its services be "unfettered by Federal and State regulation." In 1997, an executive order declared ecommerce "self-regulated" with "minimal government" and the Supreme Court effectively ruled for unlimited Internet free speech online.

What are today's main Internet injustices?

Unjust legal Double Standard. Offline, people are accountable to rule-of-law. Online, Internet technology and services are not accountable for the same conduct. This unfair double standard enables bad actors to game and arbitrage opposing accountability standards with impunity causing 'unequal justice under law.'

2. Unequal access to Justice. Offline the Constitution guarantees a citizen's access to justice. However online, Section 230 court precedents regularly result in plaintiffs' cases being immediately denied access to justice by losing via summary judgment before discovery.

3. Unfair civil duty of care Double Standard. Offline, all Americans have a civil duty of care to reasonably protect others from foreseeable harm. Online, Internet technology and Internet services are de facto above the law and privileged with no civil duty of care.

Recommended

Former WHO Directors Slam Organization's Harm Reduction Stance, And with Good Cause
Martin Cullip

4. Unequal Justice under the law. U.S. policy inhumanely values and protects technology over humanity and profit over people. It unsafely grants technology impunity to harm people. It unjustly disenfranchises people without their consent by empowering technology to govern and control people sans rights, due process, or access to justice.

5. Unjust Constitutional free speech Double Standard of limited speech offline but unlimited speech online. To protect people from harm, offline the Supreme Court has ruled which types of speech are harmful and not protected by the First Amendment, e.g., obscenity, fighting words, defamation, child pornography, perjury, blackmail, incitement to imminent lawless action, true threats, and criminal solicitations. Online, the Supreme Court is not protecting people from harm in enabling online speech ruled harmful offline. In addition, its Section 230 precedent, *Reno v. ACLU* sends mixed messages. It overturned the Communications Decency Act (CDA) for too broadly abridging adults' free speech to access pornography online. It 'threw out the baby with the bathwater' when it also overturned CDA Section 508. In 1996, 508 criminalized the "Coercion and Enticement of Minors" for sex or prostitution. This unanimous Supreme Court decision inexplicably implied that coercive speech to minors for

sex or prostitution is somehow constitutionally protected free speech. If true, the Supreme Court implies freedom of speech may be anarchically and amorally absolute online.

What Internet Injustice most Mass-Victimizes Americans?

U.S. Internet unaccountability policy has many imagining and advancing the dangerous notion that America's digital borders must allow an absolutist free flow of info into the U.S. akin to U.S. citizens freedom of speech. This naïve sovereignty surrender online unnecessarily enables out-of-control mass victimization of Americans by bad actors.

America's adversaries and foreign-sponsored cybercriminals and terrorists are not U.S. citizens and have no First Amendment Rights, to kill, steal, exploit, defraud, or harm Americans.

Cybercrime victimization is out-of-control. Only .05 % of cybercrime is prosecuted. Americans worry most about cybercrimes. Most of the 100,000 Americans killed last year by Fentanyl poisoning died as a result of illegal online pharmacies. 23 % of Americans have suffered from cybercrime, 33 % from identity theft, and 64 % from theft of their data.

Cyberattack and cyber-harassment victimization is out-of-control. 53 % of US adults have been cyberbullied or harassed. 90 % of U.S. organizations have been compromised by a cyberattack. 78 % of U.S. organizations have suffered from ransomware.

What is the Internet injustice solution?

Restore constitutional authority, rule of law, rights, and a duty of care over the U.S. Internet in U.S. policy. It keeps the Internet good (legal conduct) and fixes the Internet bad (illegal conduct.) What would change? Americans would go from not having, to having, rights, recourse, and access to justice online. U.S. policy would flip from protecting technology from people, to protecting people from technology. Big tech would go from not being subject, to being subject, to rule-of-law, rights, and a duty-of-care like everyone else.

1.4.10 Elites in Congress Need to Focus on Cutting Spending to Protect American Taxpayers (2022-12-13 21:33)

Spending is out of control in Washington right now. With Republicans and Democrats fighting over where to increase federal spending, it is important that the opposite happen, and discretionary spending take a big cut. There is a way to fully fund the core functions of government while taking a big chunk out of federal discretionary spending. There are so many targets for spending cuts and Congress needs to start finding cuts now, instead of finding new ways to spend even more taxpayer cash and borrowed money.

I was there when the Tea Party movement launched thanks to the federal government bailing out Wall Street. The movement launched to send new members to Congress like Sens. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Rand Paul (R-KY) to fight the establishment of both parties on the fact that Washington can't control spending. Those members have fought a lonely battle and we need the House Freedom Caucus to take up a new battle to get the Republican Party in the House to propose large cuts to spending going forward to regain the trust of the American people.

They can start today.

In the post-election Lame Duck Congress, the House and Senate are in negotiations on a massive omnibus spending package that will cost the taxpayers \$1.5 trillion. According to Reuters, the two sides are \$25 billion apart from cutting a deal. Those deals usually end up with more spending for both parties, instead of finding a cut to satisfy both parties. The goal is to bundle the twelve appropriations bills into one giant omnibus package that will keep the government funded to September 30, 2023. This creates leverage for conservatives to get some cuts or vote down the package.

Our national debt is in excess of \$31.4 trillion. That is a staggering amount of debt that will end up being passed on to future generations. Our federal government has run a deficit of \$2.8 trillion in FY2021 and \$1.4 trillion in FY 2022. Sadly, some in Congress and the White House want to take credit for cutting the deficit by over a trillion. They should be run out of town for having a deficit this past year over one trillion. The priorities in the Washington swamp are out of whack and if they don't focus on getting the federal debt under control, our nation might hit the wall on borrowing and spiral the economy into a deep depression

One easy target to cut spending is in the massive F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program that is projected to cost \$1.7 trillion over the lifetime of the program according to Dan Grazier of the Project On Government Oversight (POGO). He argues that the F-35 JSF program suffers from "everything from structural cracks to cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Twenty years in development — and it still can't shoot straight and is rarely ready to fly when it is needed." Well, that seems like a good place to start at the Pentagon.

Much like the financial institutions on Wall Street were deemed "Too Big To Fail," the F-35 JSF program seems to have fallen into the same category. Even with the many well document problems with the program, Congress can't quit the program. At a minimum, they should find savings in the program and if you need to close a \$25 billion gap between Republican and Democratic spending priorities, this might be low hanging fruit.

In addition to the massive overspending on this program, it seems that the F-35 program has some materials in the engine that were sourced from China, according to Politico, in violation of the law. That is a good reason to stall the program until we can figure out ways to get more out of the contractor for less taxpayer cash. This is merely one example and there are hundreds of other wasteful programs in need of study and cuts.

If Republicans in Congress can't get their act together and tackle spending, maybe it is time for Tea Party 2.0 to come to Congress in the next election to force some change on the elites who continually spend trillions of dollars they don't have. Republicans better get used to looking over their shoulders for primary challenges if they can't get this right.

1.4.11 We Have an Update on the Non-Binary DOE Official Who Stole People's Luggage (2022-12-13 21:34)

It turns out that non-binary Biden nuke official Sam Brinton carries more baggage than the Biden administration can handle.

35-year-old drag queen Samuel Otis Brinton, who is facing a pair of felony charges in two states for allegedly—not once, but twice—stealing luggage containing women’s clothes, was President Joe Biden’s cross-dressing, “gender-fluid” deputy assistant secretary for spent fuel and waste disposition in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) up until sometime Monday evening.

Now, the sticky-fingered former DOE employee, who uses “they/them/theirs” pronouns, must identify as unemployed.

“Sam Brinton is no longer a DOE employee,” a DOE spokesperson confirmed to the Daily Beast last night, but declined to elaborate. “By law, the Department of Energy cannot comment further on personnel matters,” the DOE representative added.

All mentions of the ex-nuclear waste chief have since been nuked from the official DOE website, with the alleged kleptomaniac’s biography scrubbed and Brinton’s profile removed from the Office of Nuclear Energy’s leadership page. The office’s organizational chart also lists Brinton’s former position as “Vacant,” and Brinton’s government email has been deactivated.

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Sam Brinton’s biography has been SCRUBBED from the Office of Nuclear Energy’s leadership page and his position as Biden’s nuclear waste chief is listed as VACANT. pic.twitter.com/QaWaTBbfWF

— Mia Cathell (@MiaCathell) December 13, 2022

Brinton was placed on a leave of absence after being charged with felony theft for swiping a woman’s Vera Bradley luggage from a baggage carousel at the Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) International Airport on Sept. 16. After a two-day stay at a luxury hotel, Brinton was captured on security camera checking the 26-inch roller bag and its contents, which were collectively worth over \$2,300, on a flight back to the nation’s capital and, again, traveling with the victim’s stolen suitcase on a return trip from Europe.

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The non-binary Biden official was filmed traveling again with the stolen bag at Dulles Airport on a return trip from Europe. Police instructed Brinton on how to return the woman’s luggage, but the victim has not yet received the snatched suitcase back from Brinton. pic.twitter.com/24RIURki5N

— Mia Cathell (@MiaCathell) November 29, 2022

A warrant was issued Thursday for Brinton’s arrest after authorities in Nevada identified the frequent flyer as the suspect who snatched yet another woman’s luggage on July 6 at Harry Reid International Airport near Las Vegas, based on Brinton’s distinctive rainbow-themed atomic T-shirt that matched a selfie on Brinton’s now-private Instagram account from the same day.

Brinton was caught, once again, on surveillance footage making off from the airport’s baggage-claim area with the female victim’s \$320 hard-shell bag that held jewelry, clothing, and makeup valued at more than \$3,000, according to police statements.

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✖ Cross-dressing Biden official Sam Brinton is accused AGAIN of stealing ANOTHER suitcase, this time from an airport near Las Vegas, Nevada.

An arrest warrant was issued for felony grand larceny with a value between \$1,200 and \$5,000. <https://t.co/NQcPCuf1CW> [pic.twitter.com/EkwTI3EMXy](https://t.co/pic.twitter.com/EkwTI3EMXy)
— Mia Cathell (@MiaCathell) December 9, 2022

Both times, Brinton was filmed fiddling with the luggage tags and then fleeing with the stolen property in-hand.

If convicted of either felony, Brinton could face up to 10 years behind bars and a \$10,000 fine for the grand larceny charge in the Silver State, and five years of prison time plus a \$10,000 fine for the theft offense in Minnesota. In the latter case, Brinton is summoned to show up early next week at an in-person Minneapolis courtroom appearance on the afternoon of Dec. 19.

Brinton, who was pocketing a taxpayer-funded six-figure salary, submitted a request for all preliminary hearings to be held remotely due to “financial” and “logistical travel difficulties” traveling between Minnesota and Washington, D.C. But, during the weekend prior to the request, the seasoned traveler had no issue hosting a spanking seminar at a Los Angeles kink conference.

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Last weekend, the Maryland-based thieving Biden official, who is now requesting remote courtroom hearings for the felony theft charge due to “financial and logistical travel difficulties,” hosted a spanking seminar at a kink conference in Los Angeles. <https://t.co/m4FOLXBfTi>
— Mia Cathell (@MiaCathell) December 2, 2022

1.4.12 Disturbing: Canada’s Euthanasia ‘Slippery Slope’ Is Real and Horrifying (2022-12-13 21:37)

Advocates of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia often frame their position as driven by compassion and dignity. As the broad-strokes argument goes, people with terrible terminal illnesses — living in pain, with no cure available — should not be denied the choice to end their own life, at a time of their own choosing, on their own terms, with the help of a medical practitioner. From a human perspective, though suicide is rightfully an upsetting and disturbing cultural taboo, it is hard not to at least be somewhat sympathetic to these sorts of appeals. There is a moral and ethical case against sanctioning the taking of one’s own life, even under the most dire and difficult circumstances. But the more potent argument, in my view, may be warnings against a ‘slippery slope’ on the matter, which has repeatedly been confirmed as creepy and quite real.

'Slippery slopes' are often dismissed as logical fallacies that claim one must oppose a, b, or c because x, y, or z might hypothetically happen next. In some cases, this is a weak form of argumentation, which deliberately declines to take on a, b, and c, on substance, punting the discussion to the realm of undesirable or bad next steps that may or may not arise down the line. On the subject of assisted suicide and euthanasia, however, the slippery slope is not hypothetical. Over and over again, once the door is cracked open, it gets flung wide open, sometimes resulting in the highly disturbing arrival of what might be described as suicide advocacy — with an ever-lowering bar of what sorts of ailments should qualify people for permission or even encouragement to end their lives.

In Oregon, physician-assisted suicide is no longer limited to residents of the state, making it a death destination for others. Allegations of abuses have cropped up, and some patients seeking treatments have been offered death instead. A shift from focusing exclusively on terminally-ill patients suffering horrible pain with no prospects for recovery, to any number of other groups and conditions, is a phenomenon that has been documented in multiple jurisdictions where the practice is legalized. The Netherlands has been a pioneer in this area, leading to a stream of 'progressive' policy 'updates' that have systematically made choosing death — or, arguably, death being chosen for you — easier and easier:

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Everyone in the Netherlands seems to have known someone who has been euthanised, and the kind of choreographed farewell...is far from unusual. Certainly, the idea that we humans have a variety of deaths to choose from is more familiar in the Netherlands than anywhere else. But the long-term consequences of this idea are only just becoming discernible. Euthanasia has been legal in the Netherlands for long enough to show what can happen after the practice beds in...As the world's pioneer, the Netherlands has also discovered that although legalising euthanasia might resolve one ethical conundrum, it opens a can of others — most importantly, where the limits of the practice should be drawn. In the past few years a small but influential group of academics and jurists have raised the alarm over what is generally referred to, a little archly, as the "slippery slope" — the idea that a measure introduced to provide relief to late-stage cancer patients has expanded to include people who might otherwise live for many years, from sufferers of diseases such as muscular dystrophy to sexagenarians with dementia and even mentally ill young people.

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Papers published recently by the Dutch Euthanasia Commission reportedly revealed that a woman in her twenties was allowed to go ahead with assisted suicide based on psychiatrists' decision that her mental health condition was "insufferable," and it was therefore illegal to deny her life-ending drugs. The woman, who has not been identified, was sexually abused between the ages of 5 and 15, according to Britain's Independent...Multiple reports cited the documents published by the Commission as stating the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) the woman suffered due to the abuse was "incurable," enabling the approval under Dutch law of her request for euthanasia. The Telegraph reports that the young woman was not an isolated case, and in fact, the rate of approved assisted suicides in the Netherlands for patients suffering from mental disorders has increased dramatically since the procedure was first made legal. In 2010, only two people were granted euthanasia due to "insufferable" mental conditions, while The Telegraph said that number rose to 56 in 2015.

A woman in her twenties was prescribed death over her ‘incurable’ PTSD. The slippery slope is real. Canada has recently emerged as ground zero for this debate, based on a series of alarming revelations and allegations. Writing in the New York Times, Ross Douthat paints a grim picture in a column entitled ‘What Euthanasia Has Done to Canada:’

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In recent years, Canada has established some of the world’s most permissive euthanasia laws, allowing adults to seek either physician-assisted suicide or direct euthanasia for many different forms of serious suffering, not just terminal disease. In 2021, over 10,000 people ended their lives this way, just over 3 percent of all deaths in Canada. A further expansion, allowing euthanasia for mental-health conditions, will go into effect in March 2023; permitting euthanasia for “mature” minors is also being considered...It is barbaric...to establish a bureaucratic system that offers death as a reliable treatment for suffering and enlists the healing profession in delivering this “cure.” And while there may be worse evils ahead, this isn’t a slippery slope argument: When 10,000 people are availing themselves of your euthanasia system every year, you have already entered the dystopia. Indeed, according to a lengthy report by Maria Cheng of The Associated Press, the Canadian system shows exactly the corrosive features that critics of assisted suicide anticipated, from health care workers allegedly suggesting euthanasia to their patients to sick people seeking a quietus for reasons linked to financial stress. In these issues you can see the dark ways euthanasia interacts with other late-modern problems — the isolation imposed by family breakdown, the spread of chronic illness and depression, the pressure on aging, low-birthrate societies to cut their health care costs.

Here is one dystopian vignette from the Associated Press report Douthat cites, published in August:

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Alan Nichols had a history of depression and other medical issues, but none were life-threatening. When the 61-year-old Canadian was hospitalized in June 2019 over fears he might be suicidal, he asked his brother to “bust him out” as soon as possible. Within a month, Nichols submitted a request to be euthanized and he was killed, despite concerns raised by his family and a nurse practitioner. His application for euthanasia listed only one health condition as the reason for his request to die: hearing loss. Nichols’ family reported the case to police and health authorities, arguing that he lacked the capacity to understand the process and was not suffering unbearably — among the requirements for euthanasia. They say he was not taking needed medication, wasn’t using the cochlear implant that helped him hear, and that hospital staffers improperly helped him request euthanasia. “Alan was basically put to death,” his brother Gary Nichols said. Disability experts say the story is not unique in Canada, which arguably has the world’s most permissive euthanasia rules — allowing people with serious disabilities to choose to be killed in the absence of any other medical issue. Equally troubling, advocates say, are instances in which people have sought to be killed because they weren’t getting adequate government support to live. Canada is set to expand euthanasia access next year, but these advocates say the system warrants further scrutiny now.

When it’s cheaper and ‘easier’ for a government to end citizens’ lives than to help them keep living, and euthanasia is legal, abuses are inevitable. And cases that may initially be considered scandalous abuses become more commonplace. Here’s another fresh example, via the CBC:

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Canada offers disabled veteran “aid to die” when she asks for a stairlift
pic.twitter.com/Xb1PYmSZ2w

— End Wokeness (@EndWokeness) December 4, 2022

A paraplegic former member of the Canadian military shocked MPs on Thursday by testifying that the Department of Veterans Affairs offered her, in writing, the opportunity for a medically assisted death — and even offered to provide the equipment. Retired corporal Christine Gauthier, who competed for Canada at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympics and the Invictus Games that same year, spoke before the House of Commons veterans committee and agreed to provide a copy of the letter. "With respect to me, I have a letter in my file, because I had to face that as well," said Gauthier, referring to the debate about veterans being offered the option of medical assistance in dying (MAID). "I have a letter saying that if you're so desperate, madam, we can offer you MAID, medical assistance in dying," said Gauthier who first injured her back in a training accident in 1989. Testifying in French, she said she has been fighting for a home wheelchair ramp for five years and expressed her concerns about the assisted dying offer in a recent letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "I sent a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau and that they [Veterans Affairs] offered me MAID and would supply equipment," said Gauthier.

The Canadian government did not offer her a chairlift to make her life easier. They did offer this 52-year-old the option of death at the hands of a doctor. Ms. Gauthier's story is appalling and outrageous, so Prime Minister Justin Trudeau went through the motions of calling it “absolutely unacceptable,” but the news account goes on to add that Trudeau did not explicitly back away from his government's plan to further expand “medically-assisted dying in Canada to include those with mental illness,” which “could become an option next spring.” When the value of life is diminished, things can get very dark, very rapidly. In Canada, these practices were first legalized in 2016. The ‘culture of death’ slope slipped quickly: “The law was later amended to allow people who are not terminally ill to choose death, significantly broadening the number of eligible people. Critics say that change removed a key safeguard aimed at protecting people with potentially years or decades of life left.” And today, “any adult with a serious illness, disease or disability can seek help in dying.”

1.4.13 Elon Musk Disbands Twitter ‘Trust and Safety’ Council (2022-12-13 21:45)

Twitter has disbanded the much-ballyhooed “Trust and Safety” advisory group as Elon Musk seeks to find a way to moderate content on the social media platform without relying on censoring opinions or ideas.

According to Twitter staffers, the Trust and Safety groups did not have any power. But content moderators on the platform regularly consulted with members of the group who provided expertise and guidance on how Twitter could better combat hate, harassment, and other harms.

One of the Trust and Safety committee members, Alex Holmes, claims it was not a “governing body.”

Twitter’s Trust and Safety Council was a group of volunteers who over many years gave up their time when consulted by Twitter staff to offer advice on a wide range of online harms and safety issues.

At no point was it a governing body or decision making.

— Alex Holmes [@abcholmes](#) (@abcholmes) December 13, 2022

He doesn’t get it. He and his fellow “Trust and Safety” censors were determining what was “hate speech” and what was “harmful.” “Content moderation,” my butt. When you come at an issue with a certain political perspective — right, left, or center — you are going to advise Twitter staff based on that ideological lens through which you see the world.

The problem with the “Trust and Safety” group was its makeup. The advisory group consisted of around “100 independent civil, human rights and other organizations that the company formed in 2016 to address hate speech, child exploitation, suicide, self-harm and other problems on the platform,” according to the Associated Press.

The council had been scheduled to meet with Twitter representatives Monday night. But Twitter informed the group via email that it was disbanding it shortly before the meeting was to take place, according to multiple members.

The council members, who provided images of the email from Twitter to The Associated Press, spoke on the condition of anonymity due to fears of retaliation. The email said Twitter was “reevaluating how best to bring external insights” and the council is “not the best structure to do this.”

“Our work to make Twitter a safe, informative place will be moving faster and more aggressively than ever before and we will continue to welcome your ideas going forward about how to achieve this goal,” said the email, which was signed “Twitter.”

Whatever Musk replaces the advisory council with, it’s going to be an improvement, especially when you consider who is leaving the company.

Former Twitter employee Patricia Cartes, whose job it was to form the council in 2016, said Monday its dissolution “means there’s no more checks and balances.” Cartes said the company sought to bring a global outlook to the council, with experts from around the world who could relay concerns about how new Twitter policies or products might affect their communities.

She contrasted that with Musk’s current practice of surveying his Twitter followers before making a policy change affecting how content gets moderated.

“He doesn’t really care as much about what experts think,” she said.

How dare he not “care as much about what experts think”! That one statement says everything about why it was necessary to deep-six the Twitter Trust and Safety group.

Right now, the right- and left-wing trolls are testing the limits — and the patience — of Musk and Twitter management. Of course, there's been an explosion of hate speech, racism, threats, and other unacceptable postings. Stupid is as stupid does. The brainless haters are celebrating their newfound freedom. Predictably, the left is having a fit and is calling for the end of Twitter and of Musk, while demanding their old Twitter back.

Fortunately, that's not going to happen. And since Twitter still has an outsized influence on politics and culture, the platform and its new owner aren't going anywhere.

1.4.14 White House Announces Efforts to Counter Anti-Semitism as Ilhan Omar Joins Bidens for Photo-Op (2022-12-13 21:50)

On Monday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre avoided giving us another display of her tongue-tied unpreparedness by issuing a written statement. "As President Biden has made clear," she stated, "antisemitism has no place in America. All Americans should forcefully reject antisemitism – including Holocaust denial – wherever it exists." In response, PJM's Paula Bolyard tweeted: "Will the @WhiteHouse be investigating the rank anti-Semitism in the Democrat Party? (That's a rhetorical question. I know the answer.)" Indeed, the answer is clear: also on Monday, a photo surfaced of Joe and Jill Biden, dressed to the nines, standing in front of a portrait of George Washington and between a couple of Christmas trees with the notoriously antisemitic Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Mogadishu) and her latest husband, who is not her brother, Tim Mynett. So apparently antisemitism has no place in America, it just has a place in the House of Representatives.

Antisemite Ilhan Omar stands gleefully smiling in the presence of POTUS, without a care in the world.

THIS is how normalized Jew hatred has become in America.

This bigot should be shunned at every turn, not posed with for holiday snapshots.
pic.twitter.com/3p8a9XhQwN

— StopAntisemitism (@StopAntisemites) December 12, 2022

"The President," Jean-Pierre announced, "is establishing an inter-agency group led by Domestic Policy Council staff and National Security Council staff to increase and better coordinate U.S. Government efforts to counter antisemitism, Islamophobia, and related forms of bias and discrimination within the United States." Great. So no doubt that would involve decisively repudiating the individual who tweeted back in 2012: "Israel has hypnotized the world, may Allah awaken the people and help them see the evil doings of Israel." You remember, Joe, don't you? The one who claimed that support for Israel in the United States was "all about the Benjamins baby," and charged that the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee paid American politicians to support Israel. Are you going to repudiate her?

Even the House Democrat leadership called out Omar back in Feb. 2019, issuing a statement entitled "Democratic Leadership Statement on Anti-Semitic Comments of Congresswoman

Ilhan Omar.” It stated that “Legitimate criticism of Israel’s policies is protected by the values of free speech and democratic debate that the United States and Israel share. But Congresswoman Omar’s use of anti-Semitic tropes and prejudicial accusations about Israel’s supporters is deeply offensive. We condemn these remarks and we call upon Congresswoman Omar to immediately apologize for these hurtful comments.” And now here it is December 2022, and the same Congresswoman Omar is standing with the president who has just declared that he is dedicating a new effort to fighting antisemitism. What’s wrong with this picture? Did someone’s palm get greased? Is it all about the benjamins?

Some will note that Omar apologized for those old remarks, and so she can’t be accused of antisemitism now. But she has made more recent statements as well. On June 7, 2021, she even equated the U.S. and Israel with Hamas and the Taliban, tweeting: “We must have the same level of accountability and justice for all victims of crimes against humanity. We have seen unthinkable atrocities committed by the U.S., Hamas, Israel, Afghanistan, and the Taliban. I asked [Secretary of State Antony Blinken] where people are supposed to go for justice.” She equated the United States and Israel, both of which go out of their way to avoid civilian casualties, with jihad terror groups that target civilians and use them as human shields.

So when Jean-Pierre noted that “the President has tasked the inter-agency group, as its first order of business, to develop a national strategy to counter antisemitism,” will that strategy include maybe screening the president’s guests for Christmas photo-ops? “This strategy,” Jean-Pierre explained, “will raise understanding about antisemitism and the threat it poses to the Jewish community and all Americans, address antisemitic harassment and abuse both online and offline, seek to prevent antisemitic attacks and incidents, and encourage whole-of-society efforts to counter antisemitism and build a more inclusive nation.” Yeah, sure it will. Jean-Pierre’s words ring hollow, and Biden’s effort is revealed as more empty posturing, by the Omar photo-op.

The intent to counter “Islamophobia” should also be carefully noted. The term “Islamophobia” is an illegitimate conflation of two distinct phenomena: vigilante attacks against innocent Muslims, which are never justified, and honest analysis of the motivating ideology of jihad terror, which is always necessary. No one supports attacks on innocent Muslims, but “Islamophobia” initiatives are used to shut down legitimate discourse about what causes jihad violence. This administration has already made it abundantly clear that it is not a supporter of the freedom of speech. Will this new antisemitism/Islamophobia initiative become a new pretext to restrict speech further? Don’t be surprised.

1.4.15 India and China Clash on The Roof of the World (2022-12-17 00:47)

Chinese dictator Xi Jinping lost face when his communist regime, confronting mass and violent protests in major cities, backed off on its totalitarian “zero-tolerance” COVID-19 lockdown policies. Heavens, export dollars from an Apple iPhone factory were at risk!

Chinese protesters from Xinjiang province to Shanghai are heroes in the global fight for freedom. At the bottom Chinese political line, Xi brutalized and incited his most powerful enemy, the Chinese people, to the point he had to terminate his hard-core domestic control policy that imprisoned millions in their homes.

Hundreds of millions of mainland Chinese noticed Supreme Leader Xi backed down. Word gets around. You can't keep a hundred million angry people from complaining to their 200 million friends and relatives. Moreover, The Great Cyber Firewall of China is porous. Credit angry Chinese coders committed to hacking it.

Subsequently Xi did something typical of threatened dictators: he launched military forays. Striking a foreign enemy ploy to steel wobbly domestic support is an old ploy. For example, Argentine dictator Leopoldo Galtieri employed it in 1982 when he invaded the Falkland Islands. Thanks to Margaret Thatcher and the British military his foray failed.

Foray No. 1: Xi sent a score or two of jet bombers into Taiwanese airspace, or to be totally accurate, Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ).

To be totally accurate, communist air and sea forces routinely test Taiwan and the island doesn't exactly rate as a Chinese foreign enemy. A geostrategic contortion affects my "foreign enemy" analogy. See, the Chinese Communist Party calls Taiwan a lost Chinese territory, a province Xi has sworn to recover.

Recommended

Son of Paul Pelosi Attacker Just Torched the Liberal Media's Narrative About the Assault
Matt Vespa

However, the Taiwanese reject the CCP's totalitarian claim. They wish to protect their free and wealthy society from the communist dictatorship's inherent inhumanity and destructive corruption.

To defend themselves, the Taiwanese rely on themselves and the support of allies — the U.S., Japan and Australia foremost. So, Xi has his foreign enemies behind his Taiwan foray.

However, a fourth foreign power with an interest in defending Taiwan, India, is slowly but steadily aligning with America, Japan and Australia. India presents Xi and his clique with a 3,800-kilometer-long strategic problem.

Foray No. 2 occurred Dec. 9 when Indian and Chinese soldiers clashed on an icy slope in the Tawang sector of the mountainous border between Chinese-occupied Tibet and India's northeastern Arunachal Pradesh state. India is building a major highway in the area, in order to improve New Delhi's ability to defend the region.

If the geography is obscure, the stakes aren't. The scuffle on the slope generated headlines across Asia.

Note I wrote Chinese-occupied Tibet. Communist China invaded Tibet in 1950. That was the predicate to the 1962 Sino-Indian War, which China launched and won. That war on the roof of the world is not officially over, so the hazy mountain border is called the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

In June 2020, the two Asian nuclear giants shot it out in eastern Ladakh (northeastern Himalayas). Twenty Indian soldiers died, and several Chinese soldiers were killed.

On Dec. 9? A hand-to-hand scuffle, with minor injuries.

Accidental encounter instead of Beijing muscle flexing? Maybe the LAC lacks specificity, so to speak.

I doubt it was an accident. Indian Defense minister Rajnath Singh made the critical strategic point. China is once again using military power to try “to unilaterally change the status quo” on the border.

China plays that game in the South China Sea when it encroaches on Vietnamese, Filipino and Malaysian territory. Beijing prefers one-on-one (bilateral) economic and military bullying.

India, however, is much more powerful. And India has friends. In 2007, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, at the behest of Japan, held its first informal meeting. The Quad consists of Japan, Australia, America and India. In 2007 Japan pointed out all four nations regard China as a disruptive actor in the Indo-Pacific.

A few more fights on the roof of the world and the Quad will become an alliance

1.4.16 Justifying The Suppression of Conservative Content (2022-12-17 00:48)

According to the avalanche of posts by reporters Matt Taibbi and Bari Weiss, and writer Michael Shellenberger, to whom new Twitter owner and CEO Elon Musk provided access to internal communications, Twitter massively “shadow-banned,” restricted and even flat-out blocked access to conservatives and conservative content.

So, how does the anti-Donald Trump and the anti-conservative Left ignore and even justify this nefarious practice? How do they completely ignore real “election interference” and this blatant attack to manipulate information to alter what we read, how we think and how we vote?

One defender wrote: “So it’s just occurring to so called conservative ‘intellectuals’ that private companies have internal memos discussing business practices. Amazing.”

The same leftists who dismiss the Twitter expose on the grounds that “it’s a private company” see no problem using government to compel a private company to provide health insurance, minimum wage, racial diversity and sensitivity training, paid medical and family leave or to require at least one female on its Board of Directors (a California law that was struck down as unconstitutional promptly followed by California Gov. Gavin Newsom signing another bill that requires at least one member of the “disadvantaged” community to be on the board of a private publicly held company, headquartered in California.)

It’s one thing to suppress conservative content and conservatives, it’s another not to tell them — and it’s another level of evil to deny that they do it. Fox News writes: “CEO Jack Dorsey and top Twitter employees, as well as members of the liberal media, have repeatedly claimed over the years that the social media company did not ‘shadow ban’ users or secretly censor conservative accounts.

“Yet, the second installment of the ‘Twitter Files’ released Thursday (Dec. 8) revealed a comprehensive system and internal communications in which the social media site created SECRET (emphasis added) ‘blacklists’ that applied to certain users and tweets, many of which leaned right politically.”

Consider this July 2018 statement by Twitter product lead Kayvon Beykpour and Twitter lawyer Vijaya Gadde who said “we do not shadow ban”: “You are always able to see the tweets from accounts you follow (although you may have to do more work to find them, like go directly to their profile). And we certainly don’t shadow ban based on political viewpoints or ideology.”

In August 2018, in an interview with Fox’s Sean Hannity, Twitter founder, then-owner and CEO Jack Dorsey was adamant: “We do not shadow ban according to political ideology or viewpoint or content. Period.”

Dorsey, in a 2018 interview with CNN’s media critic Brian Stelter, was equally emphatic: “Are we doing something according to political ideology or viewpoints? And we are not. Period. We do not look at content with regards to political viewpoint. We look at behavior.”

In September 2018, Dorsey appeared before the House Energy and Commerce Committee where this exchange took place:

Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Penn.: “I want to read a few quotes about Twitter’s practices and I just want you to tell me if they’re true or not. Social media is being rigged to censor conservatives. Is that true of Twitter?”

Dorsey: “No.”

Doyle: “Are you censoring people?”

Dorsey: “No.”

Doyle: “Twitter’s shadow-banning prominent Republicans ... is that true?”

Dorsey: “No.”

Journalist and author Glenn Greenwald tweeted: “The list of prominent conservative US/Western elected officials, journalists, authors, etc. banned by Big Tech is very long.

“No establishment left-liberal voice ever is.

“To deny Big Tech censorship targets conservatives requires pathological lying.

“Name the comparable Dems?”

Given that much of Left/Dems/liberal media/Hollywood/academia/Big Tech think of most conservatives — to quote Biden — as “semi-fascists,” they view suppression of conservatives and conservative content on social media as an act of patriotism.

But on one level, this corroboration that social media suppresses conservative content

and therefore stifles the exchange of differing ideas and opinion is good news. This means that the American Left is not quite as blind on many issues as conservatives think. The American Left cannot know what they are prevented from knowing by those who believe they know better.

1.4.17 Jante Law and Minnesota's hostility to the cult of the celebrity (2022-12-17 00:49)

Minnesota seems to have a regional variation of what the Australians call "tall poppy syndrome," in which those who seem to be getting a little too big for their britches must be taken down a notch or two. This seemed puzzling to me, as we really don't have that many Australians in Minnesota, and those we do have tend to be kangaroos, and I sincerely doubt we're taking cultural cues from a marsupial. So where did it come from?

Doing some research, I discovered there is a Scandinavian variation called Jante Law. The phrase originates from a Danish author named Aksel Sandemose, who lived in Norway and wrote books in Norwegian, including one with the marvelous name "En flyktning krysser sitt spor," which translates as "A Fugitive Crosses His Tracks." The book was based on Sandemose's childhood small town, which he redubbed Jante in the book, and in this town there are a series of rules. They are as follows:

- Don't think you're anything special.
- Don't think you're as good as us.
- Don't think you're smarter than us.
- Don't convince yourself that you're better than us.
- Don't think you know more than us.
- Don't think you are more important than us.
- Don't think you are good at anything.
- Don't laugh at us.
- Don't think anyone cares about you.
- Don't think you can teach us anything.

There is a final, unspoken law, and it seems to be the stick that enforces the others: Don't think that there aren't a few things we know about you. Sandemose's laws immediately became a sensation throughout Scandinavia, where it was felt they described a social phenomenon that, at its best, focused on the good of a community over any of its individual members, but at its worst repressed and minimized individual achievement.

I think we Minnesotans have absorbed Jante Law almost in entirety, and I think it explains a lot about us. There is a certain question this raises, which is why Minnesota, a state that is 38 percent German but only 26 percent Norwegian and Swedish, would be so keen to borrow from a repressive Scandinavian tradition. It helps to know that apparently Germany has its own version of Jante Law, which no one has named, but there is quite a lot of online discussion about Germany having a similar spirit of rigorous conformity.

Dramatist Frederick Schiller phrased it in this way: "We are citizens of an age, as well as of a State; and if it is held to be unseemly, or even inadmissible, for a man to cut himself off from the customs and manners of the circle in which he lives, why should it be less of a duty,

in the choice of his activity, to submit his decision to the needs and the taste of his century?" One presumes he then took a deep breath, because he had spoken so many words without a pause, and then flushed with embarrassment for having the temerity to express an opinion in public.

I don't think the Minnesota version of Jante's Law is a philosophy of rigorous conformity. We are a state of sometimes loopy nonconformity, and it is tolerated, and even celebrated, to a degree, although sometimes after a struggle. Let us keep in mind that, in 1969, when Garrison Keillor began playing popular music on "A Prairie Home Entertainment," public radio's predecessor to both "A Prairie Home Companion" and "The Morning Show," disgruntled fans of the station tried to have the show canceled. And they continued in their efforts until the mid-'80s. It is all right to go quietly bonkers in Minnesota, so long as you don't go public with it.

But I think Jante Law helps explain Minnesota's chilly hostility to the idea of the local celebrity. Most Minnesota celebrities achieved their status by enjoying national success, so we had to grudgingly admit that, yes, they are stars. There are some exceptions to this, but they are qualified. There is artist Scott Seekins, whose sartorial eccentricity (all white in the summer, all black in the winter) has made him a popular local Halloween costume. But I recall, back in the '80s, Seekins appearing in one of our newsweeklies' annual "get out of town" issues, where they complained that he's coming off as just another attention-seeker, and maybe it was time for him to move elsewhere. Seekins managed to outlast Jante Law, but it helps that people view him with the avuncular affection one feels toward an oblivious child.

People in sports and television news also enjoy a degree of local celebrity, but I don't think they are an exception to Jante Law, but instead a modification of it. Sports is a bit unusual, in that everybody who is a fan secretly pretends they are part of the team, and so celebrating the team is really just an extension of celebrating themselves. It's similar with local newspeople, who, after all, don't talk about themselves (with the possible exception of Jason DeRusha), but instead talk about Minnesota. Minnesotans are willing to celebrate the individual if it's a proxy for celebrating themselves.

But that's it. If you're attention-seeking in a more individualistic way, you're going to get some bad reactions. When Diablo Cody first started becoming famous, she actively courted celebritydom, and the Minnesota reaction was swift and terrible — never mind that she was an Illinoisan whose tenure in the Twin Cities was less than half a decade. She always had had a bit of an attention-seeking personality, unlike, say, Josh Hartnett, who still shows up at local plays and hangs out at his old Minnesota haunts, trying very hard not to be too obtrusive, despite the fact that he is 6'2" and one of the most handsome men on earth. There may have been legitimate criticism of "Juno," but it was lost in a thrum of "don't think you're more important than us." Every local story on Cody swiftly filled with vicious readers' comments (and a few shrilly supportive comments from fans, who rightly felt that all this was a bit unfair). David Carr, who himself has long had a decidedly un-Minnesotan attraction to celebrity, wrote an unexpectedly defensive piece about her, suggesting that hostility toward Cody was just jealousy. It wasn't jealousy. It was Jante Law.

The oddest effect of Jante Law is one that has local publicists constantly confounded, which is that it makes traditional publicity techniques useless. Most local arts organizations don't do any self-promotion at all, except perhaps sending out Facebook invites; they don't want to be seen as being too needy for attention. Those that do often find themselves faced with a bewildering contradiction: The more self-promotion they do, the less attention they

receive. Indeed, local editors will sometimes spontaneously decide that a local artist or organization has gotten enough attention, and turn away stories about that artist or organization, regardless of whether it is a worthwhile story. This wasn't always the case, mind you — there was a time when Minnesota publications paid well enough that a percentage of the editorial staff came from out-of-town, and believed in assigning stories on merit alone. But, with the collapse of local legacy media, our editors are increasingly young and local, and enforce Jante Law without even thinking about it.

In my opinion, this is a pity. The arts don't work the way the rest of the world does. Behavior that is an anathema anywhere else is essential to the arts. For instance, democracy is generally a good thing, but is often disastrous in the arts, which generally benefits from having a single visionary who is, functionally, a fascist. The arts undeniably benefit from a whiff of the celebrity, and the impulse to get into the arts is often linked to an uncomfortably neurotic need for attention. Artists don't make any money anyway; the least we can give them is the reward of being a local somebody. All they really want out of life are free drinks and groupies, and they work awfully hard, but they are going to be rebuffed here.

I doubt Josh Hartnett minds. There are some people who can't stand the experience of being a celebrity, and welcome a place like Minnesota, where they can go to buy groceries in peace. But for the others, those who want a dash of fame to accompany their hard work, the best they can hope for is the following:

The only way to know if you're famous in Minnesota is if everybody is trying very hard to ignore you.

1.4.18 Tall Poppy Syndrome in Lutheranism here in Minnesota (2022-12-17 00:50)

Jantelagen started with Dr Martin Luther. He started a new branch of Christianity: Lutheranism.

A LUTHERAN SOCIETY

Lutheranism was a reaction against Medieval Catholicism, where the emphasis was on a few heroes who could do miracles or just endure hardship and suffering like no other human. The ideal was to become a monk or a nun, reject all pleasures in life and accept sufferings, which could be as difficult as slowly starving oneself to death.

The Lutheran gospel was that your salvation depended not on the pious elite but on yourself (technically your salvation was already clear as Jesus had died for your sins and risen from the dead, but the important thing here is that you did no longer needed the church hierarchy or the saints or someone else. You could do it yourself). The ideal life was not the monk or the nun but rather the ordinary man doing ordinary things in an excellent way.

Luther taught that you, as a Christian, were called to do your own duty, and to do it as well as possible. You should not seek for worldly glory, like promotion. You should stay where you are and do the duty that is yours. This meant the Lutheran countries became the world's least corrupt. A boring civil servant who did his duty. Who took no bribes. Who followed rules and laws. He was an ideal man. A man to be admired and praised.

Note, that there also was no hierarchy of people but only in quality of people. A corrupt bishop was not likely to be saved, but rather a pious street cleaner.

JANTE: THE DOWNSIDE OF LUTHERANISM

The downside is that people are not encouraged to improve their own situation. If you are a lumberjack who do hard manual labour, that is what you should do to honour God. A lumberjack who quit his job to start his own successful personal business is seen as a traitor.

The same leveling attitude is applied to other fields of life. A girl is supposed to be beautiful, but not outstanding in any way. Stick to the crowd. Do not try to assert yourself. Be humble.

The non-competitive attitude is also a way to not lead others into temptation. What if they see your success and want the same? Maybe they would give up the silent and not glamorous task of doing their duty? Maybe they will start cheating and doing dishonest jobs? If so it will be your fault for showing off!

1.4.19 Two Antithetical Billionaires (2022-12-17 00:52)

Before the midterm November elections, Sam Bankman-Fried was a left-wing billionaire heartthrob.

He properly grew up on the Stanford campus, where his parents were well-known left-wing activist law professors. He went to a tony prep school and on to MIT.

Bankman-Fried mocked society's bourgeois capitalist conventions by dressing and looking like a slob in cut-offs and T-shirts.

Indeed, he bested the nose-ring, Charles Manson-esque appearance of former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey. He outdid the all-black, Steve Jobs copy-cat get-up of another fallen leftist icon, the now-convicted felon Elizabeth Holmes of Theranos infamy.

The Left canonized Bankman-Fried for the hundreds of millions of dollars he created out of thin air and channeled to left-wing congressional and state candidates, President Joe Biden, and a host of "progressive" causes under the cool slogan "effective altruism."

For decades hence – or so Bankman-Fried promised – his cryptocurrency company FTX would churn out billions. Its politically correct gifting won exemptions from the Federal Trade Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Democratic-controlled congressional oversight committees.

The loud-talking, left-wing slob promised billions of dollars more in gifts to come. He was knighted as the successor to the kindred financial market manipulator and progressive "philanthropist" George Soros.

SBF may have been a sloppy, immature fool, but he was no dummy.

He had learned early on that loud leftist talk, big promises of philanthropy, and huge cash infusions to the media and leftist candidates – all under the veneer of “effective altruism” – ensured de facto immunity for his Ponzi schemes from both bad press and government investigation.

Then, suddenly, the midterms were over. Powerful financial interests were screaming their millions had vanished at the hands of SBF.

The Republicans took the House. They promised embarrassing hearings, with Bankman-Fried the loose-talking star villain. And so – presto! – he was finally indicted by the Biden Department of Justice.

Bankman-Fried, in desperation one last time, had turned to his old props of raggedy dress, nerd talk, and contrived naivete.

His schtick no longer worked. Too many leftists were embarrassed that they got too much money from him. Too many exposed “regulators” had known what this wannabe Madoff character was up to before the midterms.

The now albatross Bankman-Fried was loud and everywhere, then suddenly not-and won’t be again.

In contrast, consider how the Left now despises Elon Musk as much as it once worshiped Sam Bankman-Fried.

Musk once mixed vaguely liberal politics with a David-versus-Goliath self-confidence, as he took on Big Auto and Big Space – and won.

But then he turned to Twitter and Big Tech. Or, rather, Musk realized Silicon Valley was no longer the irreverent embryo of boy geniuses he remembers from his youth, which out-smarted and preempted the global technology establishment.

Instead, it had become a dreary, constipated place of hard-core, uncompromising left-ists in need of a shake-up.

Tech moguls used their billions, their monopolies, and their exemptions from oversight to warp the way Americans searched the Internet, communicated with each other, voted, and accessed the news – all in service to left-wing causes.

Musk’s mortal sin was not just buying the money-losing Twitter and reinventing it as a free-speech platform.

It was not even exposing the company’s rot of a lazy, overstaffed, woke, and pampered workforce and its giddiness in censoring free expression and wounding the public careers of any who challenged the status quo.

Musk’s crime was far worse.

First, was the sin of betrayal. A month ago, all those Teslas on the streets of Palo Alto, Austin, and Cambridge were virtue-signaling proof of green moral superiority. Then suddenly, these still wonderful cars are seen as fuel for the prince of darkness.

Musk, of all people, now the progressive apostate, would dare to end Twitter as a left-wing bulwark. And he promised to flip this time-tried Pravda to host anyone to say what he pleased.

Second, Musk doesn't much care that the Left hates him. No doubt he regrets the billions he paid for the overpriced, money-losing company.

No doubt he frets that Tesla may lose sales once yuppies and greens trade in their Tesla amulets as if they were now some godforsaken gas-guzzling SUVs.

But otherwise, Musk has the resources, the youth, genius, and the energy to do to social media what he did to the space and automobile industries: revolutionize it, open it up to keener competition, and to reject stifling orthodoxy.

How sad that the Left despises a man who built real things against the odds and took risks to champion free speech. And how predictable it worshiped a leftist fraud who bilked a million investors and ruined the lives of thousands.

The hatred of the accomplished Musk and the worship of the hollow man Bankman-Fried are sad commentaries on how liberalism has descended into progressivism and ultimately into Stalinism.

1.4.20 What Was the Border Patrol Union Thinking Posting This Tweet? (2022-12-17 00:54)

The Border Patrol Union has decided to pick a fight with the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and, in the process, set themselves ablaze. Either they haven't read the immigration legislation being pushed up on the Hill, or this was a self-own of epic proportions. It's a lengthy battle between the two sides' social media camps. Still, the casus belli is over the bill negotiated between Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ), which they think will help resolve this ongoing crisis at the border.

To make a long story short, it won't. It's loaded with window dressing that looks tough on immigration. Still, the pathway to citizenship for 2 million Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival recipients, plus their ability to sponsor their extended families once they're through the process, is just one massive 'come on in' sign at the border. It renders every border enforcement measure, which includes an expedited process for migrants who fail to meet asylum standards, moot. Also, that's another section of immigration law that needs to be reworked.

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"The LARGEST single group we have ever seen..."

With mass amnesty discussions heating up and Title 42 slated to end on December 21, things are about to get much, much worse. <https://t.co/IVh3vDe9O7>

— FAIR (@FAIRImmigration) December 12, 2022

Do Border Patrol agents deserve a raise? They sure do! We will continue fighting for one while OPPOSING AMNESTY and supporting reforms that end the crisis, not ones that give the Biden admin exactly what they want — the ability to process and release migrants en masse. @BPUnion

— FAIR (@FAIRImmigration) December 10, 2022

But back to the Border Patrol's taking a face full of buckshot—they dredged up an old FAIR tweet, where they tried to call out the immigration group for hypocrisy over a 2017 press release where they said, "Congress should seize this opportunity to come together and forge these much-needed reforms... If the Democrats fail to show up at the negotiating table, it raises the legitimate question of whether DACA is something that the Democrats really want."

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"Congress should seize this opportunity to come together and forge these much-needed reforms... If the Democrats fail to show up at the negotiating table, it raises the legitimate question of whether DACA is something that the Democrats really want..."

FAIR's Dan Stein in 2017. <pic.twitter.com/p3JqVlrK97>

— Border Patrol Union - NBPC (@BPUnion) December 12, 2022

None of those things, which could actually secure the border, are in this amnesty deal. @FAIRImmigration <pic.twitter.com/tpbqgEKm7c>

— Storm Paglia 🦋 (@storm_paglia) December 12, 2022

Border Patrol didn't read the letter carefully because FAIR included provisions on border security that aren't included in this Tillis-Sinema legislation. The border wall is a key item FAIR supports regarding "real immigration reform." You can guess whether that measure is included in this amnesty push in Congress.

1.4.21 Arizona Judge Grants Kari Lake a Win Over Ballot Inspection Against Dem. Katie Hobbs (2022-12-17 01:07)

A Maricopa County judge in Arizona granted Republican Kari Lake's request to inspect ballots as she contests the midterm results against Democrat Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobbs.

Judge Peter Thompson approved three out of four requests from the Republican, including to review 50 random "ballot-on-demand" printed ballots that were cast on Election Day, 50 random early ballots cast from "six separate Maricopa County batches," and 50 random ballot-on-demand printed ballots that were spoil-marked.

The judge rejected Lake's request to have 50 randomly selected early ballots' envelopes inspected.

The inspection is scheduled to begin on Tuesday of next week.

The judge also ordered for the inspection to be conducted in a manner that "does not in any way interfere with any ongoing recount of the 2022 election results."

Lake's campaign praised the judge's ruling, saying they are "delighted" they have been granted the inspection.

Lake still has not conceded to Hobbs, claimed just last week that "if the process was illegitimate then so are the results."

On election day, roughly 20 percent of tabulation machines in Maricopa County malfunctioned, causing voters to wait in line for hours.

Recommended

Arizona Judge Grants Kari Lake a Win Over Ballot Inspection Against Dem. Katie Hobbs
Sarah Arnold

"I am thankful to Judge Peter Thompson and his team for the work they do and we are confident that given the opportunity, we will expose this election for the sham it was," Lake said in a statement.

Meanwhile, rumor has it that Lake could be the running mate for former President Trump.

According to a source, Lake recently traveled to Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence to attempt to persuade him to enlist her as his sidekick.

"I believe she wants to be his running mate," the source said, adding "she is working the deal. She wants something bigger, fast, to compensate for her loss in Arizona."

1.4.22 Can Trump Win in 2024? (2022-12-17 01:09)

I recently wrote an article, "Trump Can Win in 2024," where I played campaign manager and made some suggestions how Donald Trump could regain the White House in 2024. I thought

my ideas were prudent:

1. Disappear for awhile to plan an effective campaign;
2. Put 2020 behind you;
3. Quit talking about yourself so much;
4. Quit insulting fellow Republicans (even though some need it. Let the rest of us do it, we aren't running for office.);
5. Let Congress handle Hunter Biden, Twitter, etc.;
6. Lay out your positive plan to "Make America Great Again";
7. Point to your administration's achievements, but don't dwell on them; and
8. Get out to the minority communities and listen to their grievances, something Democrats never do.

I think the above is a pretty good strategy. I'll even work for cheap.

However, I couldn't help but chuckle at the responses readers gave to my article. They amounted to something like this: "Not a snowball's chance Trump will do that;" "the plan is ok, but Trump's too full of himself;" "never happen," etc., etc. My article was not how Trump WOULD win, but how he COULD win. I don't expect Mr. Trump to do the above, either, for the very reasons most respondents listed.

So, in a quick answer to the title of this article, Trump can win in 2024 but many Republicans think he probably won't because he seems incapable of making the necessary amendments to his strategy and character. It is understandable in a way. Most 70+ year old people are pretty stuck in their ways, and altering one's personality, thoughts, and actions at that age is challenging, to say the least. One might say "impossible" for a narcissist like Donald Trump.

I like Trump, I thought he was a great president, and I grieve for America because he isn't in the White House right now. Having him back there after 1/20/25 would no doubt be a vast improvement over that mentally and morally shriveled, America- and God-hating abomination that dwells there now.

But, as I write this, I'm not optimistic about Mr. Trump's chances.

Regarding the 2020 election, I make a crucial distinction, which I wish Mr. Trump would make. We cannot change that election or its results. But that doesn't mean we should forget it or not learn from it. Republicans will never win anything again if they don't adapt to the new system—mail-in ballots, ballot harvesting, early voting, etc. The Democrats created it, now it's time for Republicans to start using it wisely. Or, better, create a good, legal alternative that Americans will accept. Mr. Trump cannot do anything about this current new system. That is up to the Republican Party leadership, which is definitely a depressing thought given the people who occupy those positions. But that is what needs to be done.

Mr. Trump must quit talking about 2020. His harping on it sounds like sour grapes and makes him look like a whiny, sore loser (in other words, a Democrat). You AREN'T a Democrat, Mr. Trump, you can't play "victim." Only they can do that and get away with it, and we conservatives don't want that kind of wimpy sap running the country anyway (we already have one, and had one before you won in 2016). Let somebody else take care of 2020 and you take care of 2024.

Mr. Trump, please remember that we are all interested in the future because that is where we are going to spend the rest of our lives.

But, I fear 2020 is too deep inside Mr. Trump's blood. And that is not optimum for winning the next election.

We live in a 40-40-20 country, election-wise. In any presidential election, 40 % of the country is automatically going to vote Democrat, and 40 % will vote Republican, regardless of who the candidates are. That makes the 20 % in the middle the crucial element. Whoever can obtain the majority of those votes will be the victor. Mr. Trump, or Mr. DeSantis, or whoever the Republican nominee is will be wasting his/her time trying to win the 40 % of Democrats. They inherently hate any Republican and will not vote for one, even a Bush, Cheney, Romney, Hogan, Christie or any other RINO who tries to suck up to them. Candidates like that will do only one thing: lose the 40 % Republican vote. Such voters won't vote Democrat, they will just stay home and not vote at all.

I do believe Republicans need to make greater efforts to attract minority voters, which is one reason I suggested Trump go to Philadelphia, Harlem, Detroit, etc. and try to woo blacks and other minorities. No Republican is going to get a majority of those voters any time soon, but making inroads could be enough to gain victory, especially if a wise message is presented to the 20 % in the middle. Mr. Trump is alienating too many of both of those groups (and not a few Republicans). He has to change that in 2024 to win.

Some recent polls, though not all, indicate Mr. Trump is indeed bleeding support in his own party. He can win those people back, but he must make certain amendments if he wishes to do so, much less win the presidency. The status quo is insufficient, Mr. Trump. Demonstrate to us that you know what year it is.

The question is, can Trump do that? Maybe right after Joe Biden's IQ hits 10.

1.4.23 Brittney Griner Breaks Silence After Returning From Russia (2022-12-17 01:13)

WNBA player Brittney Griner finally broke her silence after being brought home from Russia in exchange for Viktor "Merchant of Death" Bout in an Instagram post on Friday.

"It feels so good to be home! The last 10 months have been a battle at every turn," Griner said. "I dug deep to keep my faith and it was the love from so many of you that helped keep me going. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone for your help."

Griner — whose swap came after the Biden administration apparently botched its first

attempt at a deal with the Kremlin and touted details of the not yet agreed to plan earlier in 2022 — thanked multiple people in her post:

I am grateful to each person who advocated for me, especially my wife, Cherelle Griner, my family, Lindsay Kagawa Colas and Casey Wasserman and my whole team at Wasserman, Vince Kozar and the Phoenix Mercury, the players of the WNBA, and my entire WNBA family, Terri Jackson and the WNBPA staff, my Russian legal team Maria Blagovolina and Alex Boykov, the leaders, activists, and grassroots organizations, Gov. Richardson and Mickey Bergman of the Richardson Center, the Bring Our Families Home Campaign, Roger Carstens and the SPEHA team, and of course, a special thank you to President Biden, Vice President Harris, Secretary Blinken and the entire Biden-Harris Administration.

A key criticism of the prisoner swap for Griner was the fact that another American, former U.S. Marine Paul Whelan, was not freed as part of the deal that saw a terror-supporting, anti-aircraft missile-trafficking Russian walk free. Griner claimed in her post to "know" Biden is "committed to bringing Paul Whelan and all Americans home too." Saying that "every family deserves to be whole," Griner pledged she'd "encourage everyone that played a part in bringing me home to continue their efforts to bring all Americans home."

1.4.24 Supreme Court Makes Last-Minute Ruling About Title 42 (2022-12-22 23:06)

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay on a lower court's ruling to keep Title 42 in place right before it was supposed to be lifted on Wednesday. The Biden administration has until 5 p.m. Tuesday to respond the Court's decision.

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NOW: Supreme Court chief justice John Roberts puts temporary hold on dissolving of Title 42, asks for response from Biden administration by tomorrow at 5 p.m. pic.twitter.com/DfHWRyPlnY

— Kaelan Deese (@KaelanDC) December 19, 2022

"This is purely administrative at this point, not on the merits," Fox News Chief Legal Correspondent Shannon Bream noted about the decision.

Title 42 is the public health order that has been in place since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that allowed Border Patrol agents to quickly expel illegal immigrants to prevent transmission of the virus in holding facilities. The Biden administration was also prevented from removing Title 42 at the last minute in May after a lawsuit was brought by Republicans.

It is estimated up to 18,000 illegal immigrants will cross the U.S.-Mexico border a day once the order is removed. Immigration advocates say Title 42 violates people's rights to claim asylum and it does not secure the border since the quick expulsion do not carry punishments, meaning people can make repeated attempts to cross.

"Texas and other states are insisting that the Court leave Title 42 in place. Today's order

is a step in that direction. This helps prevent illegal immigration,” Texas Governor Greg Abbott tweeted in reaction to the news.

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BREAKING: U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts has HALTED the lifting of Title 42 for now.

Texas and other states are insisting that the Court leave Title 42 in place.

Today’s order is a step in that direction.

This helps prevent illegal immigration.

— Greg Abbott (@GregAbbott_TX) December 19, 2022

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This entry was posted in Uncategorized on December 20, 2022.

Liberal Writer Shreds the January 6 Criminal Referral Facade With a One Tweet

Leave a reply

Only liberals cared about this week, so it didn’t get much traction—but the House Select Committee on January 6 voted on some criminal referrals for former President Donald Trump for his supposed role in the Capitol riots. This clown car of a congressional body is going bye-bye in the next Congress as Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) will not permit its continued existence. Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) wanted to use this select committee as part of her move to take over the Republican Party—but she got primary challenged and lost in August. Yet, when you read the reports on the referrals, you’d think something big is going happen to the former president (via NBC News):

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The House Jan. 6 committee voted Monday to recommend that the Justice Department pursue a batch of criminal charges against former President Donald Trump for his role in an effort to overturn the 2020 election and the fomenting of a deadly mob at the Capitol.

Trump was the first president in American history to be impeached twice. Now, he is also the first president to be formally referred by Congress for potential prosecution.

The committee’s final meeting was the culmination of a sweeping 17-month congressional investigation that included more than 100 subpoenas, interviews with more than 1,200 witnesses and the collection of hundreds of thousands of documents

The select committee also took aim at Trump's top allies — on and off Capitol Hill — who worked with the former president to block certification of Democrat Joe Biden's election victory and illegitimately keep Trump in power.

I would bet that nothing is going to happen to Trump. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is already a laughingstock with no credibility, and it's been dragged through the mud again with its "master-canine" relationship with Twitter regarding influencing public opinion being exposed. They raided Trump's home last summer in what everyone thought was gross overreach and all for nothing. No smoking gun was unearthed.

Also, let's say they charge Trump; he's not dropping out of the 2024 race. The Mar-a-Lago raid was their warning; Trump called their bluff. Yet, Michael Tracey, a liberal writer, quickly dismissed this story, tweeting that the referrals carry as much legal weight as "Bozo the Clown" with a magic marker.

1.4.25 Nancy Pelosi Brags About Monstrous Spending Bill (2022-12-22 23:07)

Outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is bragging about the 4,155 page, \$1.7 trillion omnibus bill she plans to pass this week...with help from Republicans.

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B) Pelosi: This package expands quality, affordable health care: preventing disruption to families' health coverage, while strengthening critical lifelines for underserved communities including Medicaid, notably in Puerto Rico and other territories.

— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) December 20, 2022

Under Nancy Pelosi's tenure as Speaker of the House, over 40 % of the federal debt accumulated since the founding of our country was incurred.

No other Speaker, President, or Senate Majority Leader, can even come close to her indubitable record of deficit spending.

— Thomas Massie (@RepThomasMassie) December 20, 2022

Over in the Senate, where Republicans could stop the bill with 41 votes, Senator Mike Lee is calling out the monstrosity.

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This monstrous spending bill comes to 4,155 pages. We deserve proper consideration and the chance to read, debate and amend - not a backroom deal. Opposing this isn't radical: running our government like this is what's radical.

— Mike Lee (@SenMikeLee) December 20, 2022

Some House Republicans are working to pressure Senators to vote against the bill.

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13 @HouseGOP to @SenateGOP: "...we are obliged to inform you that if any omnibus passes in the remaining days of this Congress, we will oppose and whip opposition to any legislative priority of those senators who vote for this bill - including the... leader." #StandUp-ForAmerica pic.twitter.com/AVAHmESbKF

— Chip Roy (@chiproytx) December 20, 2022

Recommended

Liberal Writer Shreds the January 6 Criminal Referral Facade With a One Tweet

Matt Vespa

The bill is inflationary and funds all kinds of political pet projects that the country, which has \$31 trillion in national debt, cannot afford.

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\$500,000 earmark for a new elevator in a Minneapolis museum.

An elevator? Why can't this be paid for with private or local funds? Have some bake sales and car washes.

— John Kartch (@johnkartch) December 20, 2022

Elizabeth Warren earmark: \$3,000,000 for a local swimming pool in Massachusetts.

— John Kartch (@johnkartch) December 20, 2022

Dem earmark: \$1,500,000 for an "electric shuttle bus program" at San Antonio airport.

— John Kartch (@johnkartch) December 20, 2022

1.4.26 White House: Removing Title 42 Does Not Mean the Border Is Open (2022-12-22 23:07)

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre insisted during Monday's briefing that while the Biden administration will be lifting Title 42 starting Wednesday, it does not mean the southern border is open for illegal immigration despite record numbers occurring under their watch.

"The fact that the removal of Title 42 is happening in just a day or two doesn't mean that the border is open. It just doesn't mean that. When Title 42 goes away, we will go back to Title 8, which allows for a process to make that people can have their own asylum claims heard and those who do not have a legal basis remain to be quickly removed," Jean-Pierre said.

Jean-Pierre said anyone who claims the southern border is open, it only helps the smugglers in Latin America to spread misinformation about immigration policies.

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KJP: "The fact that the removal of Title 42 is happening in just a day or two doesn't mean that the border is open. It just doesn't mean that." pic.twitter.com/1XBmuqOMMV
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) December 19, 2022

"There's estimates of 50,000 migrants in Mexico waiting to cross if Title 42 ends..."

KJP: "Smugglers will try to spread misinformation...the removal of Title 42 does not mean that the border is open. Anyone who suggests otherwise is simply doing the work of these smugglers." pic.twitter.com/w749voXXV5
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) December 19, 2022

Fox News White House Correspondent Jacqui Heinrich told Jean-Pierre it was the Biden administration who wanted to remove the public health order despite knowing it will cause a surge in illegal crossings.

Recommended

Liberal Writer Shreds the January 6 Criminal Referral Facade With a One Tweet
Matt Vespa

"That is a court order to tell us to lift Title 42 and we are going to comply because we follow the rule of law," Jean-Pierre said.

"But the administration sought to lift it...started by you guys," Heinrich replied.

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KJP: "We remain under a court order to lift Title 42."@JacquiHeinrich: "But the administration sought to lift it!"

"But it is a court order."

"Started by you guys!" pic.twitter.com/PiQG2kvOhR

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) December 19, 2022

It is estimated there could be up to 18,000 illegal crossings a day for the first few weeks after Title 42 goes away. The nationalities who have been crossing now have been largely exempt from the order being applied to them. Venezuelans are one of the biggest nationalities who have been waiting for the ability to cross the border.

1.4.27 'It Is Dead': Joe Biden Admits to Another Foreign Policy Failure (2022-12-22 23:08)

A video from early November that just surfaced this week provides new evidence that President Joe Biden and his administration have, yet again, failed at a key foreign policy objective — reviving the Iran nuke deal — but it's something Biden doesn't want to admit publicly or officially.

Biden's admission of another botched attempt at leadership came on November 4, just before the midterms, in a semi-private conversation on the sidelines of a campaign rally in Oceanside, California, Axios reported.

Video recorded by an attendee shows Biden working the crowd before she asked him to "please announce the JCPOA is dead." Biden said he wouldn't make such an announcement "for a lot of reasons" that he didn't go into.

"It is dead, but we are not gonna announce it," Biden continued. "Long story." The woman emphasized that she didn't want Biden to enter "any deals with the Mullahs" because "they don't represent us."

"I know they don't represent you," Biden replied. But they will have a nuclear weapon that they'll represent."

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#BREAKING: @POTUS is asked when he's going to declare #Iran JCPOA dead and he says: "It is dead but we're not gonna announce it." 📸 pic.twitter.com/YjZGmsP5IW
— Jason Brodsky (@JasonMBrodsky) December 20, 2022

So, that's it, then? Only someone like Obama or Biden would believe negotiating with Iran on anything but its surrender is a fool's errand, but now it seems Biden has come around to realize that the country — giving weapons to Russia for use against Ukraine and engaging in a bloody crackdown of women and girls on its own streets — is not likely to play by the rules of some revived JCPOA intended to reform its behavior.

If Biden has indeed abandoned attempts to negotiate with Iran, he has no reason not to hit the regime with sanctions as bad if not worse than what he's announced against Russia. Biden was going easy on Iran while negotiations were ongoing, but that excuse is gone

and Biden has no reason not to inflict severe pain on Iran for its human rights abuses and assistance to Russia. But will he?

Almost immediately after President Biden took the oath of office in January 2021, he and his administration got to work attempting to revive the Obama-negotiated Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — JCPOA — better known as the Iran Deal. The supposed brainchild of Obama aides Ben Rhodes, Susan Rice, and others was, in fact, a disaster of an agreement that breathed new life into the Iranian regime while not dissuading the tyrants from continuing work toward building nuclear weapon capabilities.

Former President Donald Trump had shredded the deal during his years in office, but for some reason Biden wanted to again allow Iran to enjoy privileges among the nations of the world that are usually reserved for countries that aren't leading state sponsors of terrorism or trying to build a nuke in order to destroy Israel. And, because it's Biden, he relied on Russia to negotiate with Iran on our side of the bargaining table, even after Putin invaded Ukraine and the Iranians started supplying weapons to Russia to use against Ukrainians. You can't make it up.

Along the way, White House and State Department briefings dragged out the importance of reaching a deal because Iran was getting close to the point of having the materials and capabilities to create a nuclear weapon — even admitting that they believed Iran was running out the clock on negotiations to trick the West into playing nice just long enough to have enough material to pose a threat. But now, it seems Biden has admitted his attempts to negotiate a new Iran nuclear deal are officially dead.

Good. Now make Iran pay.
Rate this:

1.4.28 The Marine Corps Goes Woke (2022-12-22 23:16)

In a world where everything that was once normal is now woke, it's no surprise that the Marine Corps has also turned the tide.

A newly released academic report from the University of Pittsburgh recommended that the U.S. Marine Corps drop the words "sir" and "ma'am" used to address senior officers to avoid "misgendering" drill instructors despite there only being 14,000 females in the Marine Corps, which makes up of only 7 percent of the branch.

Instead of using the words "sir" and "ma'am," recruits in the military services refer to their drill instructors using their ranks or roles followed by their last names.

The 738-page report highlights a \$2 million study that was conducted to examine gender-integrated recruit training, which claimed that the change would make both genders feel more comfortable when being addressed by peers.

However, not everyone is on board with the woke change.

According to the Marine Corps Times, Col. Howard Hall, chief of staff for Marine Corps Training and Education Command, expressed several concerns.

"That's going to take some effort," Hall said, adding "honestly, that's not a quick fix. What is inculcating in our young recruits that will or will not be reinforced when they graduate and enter the fleet Marine force? So again, we want to avoid any quick-fix solutions that introduce perturbations down the line."

Hall also argued that a sudden change in the service members will create unnecessary confusion and inconsistency.

"All of a sudden, we change something at recruit training, and recruits start coming in and using a different identifier. It's not something we would change overnight," Hall said, adding "again, we've got a history of 'sir, ma'am, sir, ma'am.' If we change something at the root level, how do we make the corresponding change at the Fleet Marine Force? So it's not ours to implement alone."

Recommended

The FBI's Response to the Twitter Files Is Not Going Over Well
Katie Pavlich

The report continued to argue that gender-neutral salutations are needed as well as highlighting how the Marine Corps training represents male recruits more often than females.

"Gender-neutral identifiers are an unambiguous, impartial way to circumvent these issues," the report read. "Employing gender-neutral identifiers eliminates the possibility of misgendering drill instructors, which can unintentionally offend or cause discord. By teaching recruits to use gender-neutral identifiers for their drill instructors, services underscore the importance of respecting authoritative figures regardless of gender."

The report pointed out how three out of five lessons on service history don't mention female Marines despite only a very small percentage of military branches containing female service members.

1.4.29 Will the Republican Party Tell the GOP Base to Go Pound Sand? (2022-12-22 23:18)

Who needs those icky rank-and-file Republican voters who ring the doorbells, make the calls, and write the checks? Not the Republican Party! At least that's what some at the top of the party pyramid think. Some of this elite cabal is utterly disregarding what amounts to the base's effective unanimity that current GOP Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel needs to go away. After three terms of ignominious failure, she is pushing for a fourth go 'round as the Republican National Committee (RNC) head honcho and, incredibly, a declining but still significant portion of the 168 committee members who will elect the new RNC Chair at a swank Cali retreat on January 27, 2023, are still behind her. Re-electing Ronna would be a raised middle finger to the base, prompting the base to return the favor. And the base has a lot more middle fingers.

I am backing super-lawyer and long-time RNC member Harmeet Dhillon. We need new blood. We need new ideas and energy. I say we need Harmeet - smart, savvy, and ready

for reform. But we also need to make a statement that the GOP is going to hold its leaders accountable for failure not matter how much the party poohbahs want to avoid it. How do we fix this crumbling culture if we refuse to fix ourselves?

What is this elitist love of failure combined with a steadfast determination to ignore the will of the actual voters? It's inexplicable – perhaps it is some form of insanity, with insanity being defined as doing the same thing again and again expecting a different result. Or perhaps they have a good faith belief that after five failed elections in a row Ronna is going to snap her losing streak, though she has not bothered to explain how she proposes to do that or what changes she intends to make. Of course, she does not intend to make any changes, but she will not tell us that because she won't talk to us. While appearing with Steve Bannon, she explained that she has no intention of bothering to make her case to the GOP base. Instead, she insisted, she would focus her campaign on the 168 committee members.

Hear that, GOP base? You plebes should go cool your jets, wait for your betters to make their decision, and then obey. The woman who wants your blood, sweat and (far too many) tears – as well as your hard-earned cash – doesn't want your input.

Well, we've got some input, and it's sure not going to be a check made out to the RNC.

Let's be clear – there is no dispute that the base wants Ronna run out of town. My own unscientific polls – well, they are at least as scientific as climate change – of the kind of GOP stalwarts who make up my Twitter readership have been devastating. On December 5, 2022, Ronna managed to secure a big .6 % (!) of the 5,992 respondents. On December 17, 2022, she got a hefty 1.1 %(!) out of 4,957 voters. I guess that's an improvement. She's gone from totally rejected to statistically insignificantly less totally rejected.

An average of .85 % support – ouch. Here are a few things more popular than Ronna McDaniel:

- Toe fungus
- Rage Against the Machine
- That perverted colonel who is into puppy sex play
- A perverted colonel who is into puppy sex play who also has toe fungus and likes Rage Against the Machine

Again, Ronna is not bothering to make her case to you, and why would she? She does not have a case to make. What is the case for Ronna McDaniel IV: Electric Loserloo?

- She's a nice person
- She wants to be Chair again
- She needs a job
- She tried hard

- You should not switch horses in midstream

As a lawyer, this is the kind of case that we what we refer to as “a total loser.” Nice person? Don’t care. Buy a dog. Wants to be Chair again? I want a pony. Needs a job? McDonalds is hiring. You know she’ll land a cushy gig with the Eagle Forum for Families, Eagles, and America. She tried hard? What, is that exceptional? Is that above and beyond? And we should not switch horses in midstream? When should we switch? Now is the longest possible time until an election – if not now, when?

There is no case for Ronna. Yet she still has support. Why?

Because she is friends with a lot of the voting members? Loyalty is good, but shouldn’t that loyalty be to the party, not a person? Because a lot of people like the way business is done at the GOP – with emphasis on “business?” Harmeet has made clear she’ll audit the RNC’s (shaky and sketchy) books and crack down on consultant gifting. That’s got to make the consultant class quake. Because if the rubes block her, then the rubes will get the idea that they matter? Sadly, that seems to be a big part of it.

You have gotten uppity, serfs. How dare you think you matter?

But the base does matter, and the consequences of rejecting the base will be devastating to a party that’s already reeling. What happens if the RNC goes ahead and moons us? If you wanted to find a better way to crush morale, dry up the volunteer pool, and freeze small-dollar donations, tell the base to pound sand and double down on a five-time loser. All the obnoxious texts in the world dunning people for a few bucks is not going to help.

They want you to take what you are given and like it. They want you to knock and dial and write checks, but they don’t want you to have a say. And that’s unacceptable.

The good news is that they can hear you. They do hear you. RNC members are fleeing the sinking ship. Ronna’s support is slipping away. It’s less significant than it was before Harmeet got in and challenged her – inertia was her friend – but now there is a choice, and those 168 people purporting to represent us must choose. The RNC committee members are feeling the heat – heat you can increase by reaching out, politely, by finding the three reps from your state at www.HireHarmeet.com and sending them an email telling them what you want.

Do not sit this out, people. You matter. And the election for the RNC Chair will tell us if the Republican Party agrees.

Choose wisely, RNC.

1.4.30 Quit Wasting Our Money, Congress! (2022-12-22 23:20)

Congress constantly receives low poll numbers from the America people, and it is understandable why. It is virtually unbelievable how utterly beyond decency, common sense, frugality, and restraint our legislators are. They reach depths of human depravity and fiscal

irresponsibility that must be the envy of every tyrant in history. There are, of course, a few good members in Congress (you won't need to take off your socks to count them), but they are swamped by the Swamp, by those who could not care less what is best for the nation, who think—well, I don't know what they think. They DON'T think. Except in the most evil, selfish, self-serving terms possible. YOU are stupid and deplorable. I do know they think that.

But we keep sending them there.

THAT is what is really scary. Unfortunately, it's democracy at work. It is why John Adams once wrote, "Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." James Madison, the Father of our Constitution, concurred: "Democracy is the most vile form of government." Think about our Congress and President, friends, and try to think of ways to disagree with what those two men said.

Adams and Madison obviously had Mitch McConnell, the "LEADER" of the Republican Party in the most powerful legislative body in the world, in mind. McConnell recently said (again!) that aiding Ukraine is America's "number one priority." How can ANY American believe that? How do people reach a point where they think like that? What kind of septic tank IS Washington, D.C.? McConnell, if you are going to give the Democratic Party (and Ukraine) everything they want, then what good is the Republican Party? Why should we vote for you? We send you to Washington to stop the Democrats, not kiss their feet. Get lost, McConnell. You are thoroughly, utterly useless to America.

This is totally revolting. And beyond nauseating. It gets worse, read on.

Congress is about to pass (and Biden will no doubt sign) a new, 4,155-page, \$1.7 TRILLION "omnibus spending bill." How many of the 535 members of Congress do you think will (CAN?) read it before they vote to pass it? Here is some of what Congress is burning YOUR (and your ancestors') money for:

- \$212.1 million more to the DOJ to prosecute January 6 prisoners;
- \$2.4 billion to Ukrainian refugees;
- Expressly prohibits Customs and Border Protection funding from being used to improve border security;
- BUT allocates \$410 million towards border security for Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, and Oman;
- and gives almost \$1.5 billion for membership in global multilateral organizations, including the UN;
- \$65 million for salmon;
- \$3 million for "bee friendly" highways;
- Can't forget the other fish: \$65.7 million for international fisheries commissions;

- \$575 million for “family planning” (i.e., baby murder) in areas where population growth “threatens biodiversity”;
- \$65 million in two programs for Senator Leahy and a federal building named for Nancy Pelosi;
- \$3.6 million for the “Michelle Obama Trail”;
- \$477k for "antiracist" training from the Equity Institute;
- \$3 million for the LGBTQ+ museum in NYC;
- \$1.2 million in "services for DACA recipients";
- \$4.1 million in various career programs for one of the richest counties in the US (Fairfax);
- \$47 billion more for Ukraine as well as a “Ukraine Independence Park” in Washington, D.C.;
- \$300,000 per year for the Continuous Plankton Recorder, whoever—whatever—that is.

If you think that’s just “trivial” money, then you have a whole lot more than I do. No honorable, responsible legislator would spend one dime of their constituents’ money on any of that junk.

Representative Dan Bishop of North Carolina—apparently one of the good guys—posted the above on Twitter, and I’m sure this is just the tip of the iceberg of the waste, fraud, abuse, and theft that is in that bill.

I tend to be a pretty patient individual, but time is wearing thin. I despise incompetence, theft, corruption, and especially people who take advantage of others. And that is exactly what the United States Congress does, year after year after year. There are very few legislators with one iota of a sense of responsibility to the people who pay their salary. They see us as nothing more than an endless reservoir of money that they can exploit and extort for their own political gain, wasting our hard-earned income on frivolous, useless, UNCONSTITUTIONAL tripe that serves them, not us. Find me the word “salmon” in the United States Constitution (hint: it’s right next to “abortion”). But you can find it in this current bill 48 times. Your money is tyrannized from you and given to somebody you don’t even know and whom you pay again for their product in the off-chance you should want it. But the salmon will certainly know who to vote for next election cycle. And that is ALL that matters to the members of Congress. You—no, your money—is a means to an end: the endless power they lust after for as long as they can hold onto it. And we suckers keep playing their game and electing them back into office. The laughter in the halls of Congress over our stupidity must be constant and never-ending.

This is not what our Founding Fathers intended for America. Not even close. But then, this country is no longer anything near what the men who established it intended it to be. Not

politically, certainly not morally, nor in just about any other measure one can imagine.

Our Founders warned us, repeatedly, about the abuse of power. We haven't listened. And we are paying the price. We have nobody to blame but ourselves for the garbage we send to Washington.

1.4.31 The Traumatic True History and Name List of the Dakota 38 (2022-12-22 23:31)

On the day after Christmas in 1862, 38 Dakota men were hanged under order of President Abraham Lincoln. The hangings and convictions of the Dakota 38 resulted from the aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 in southwest Minnesota.

In addition to the 38 men hanged the day after Christmas, there were terrible injustices committed against 265 others in the form of military convictions and inhuman injustices to more than 3,000 Dakota people who were held captive, then forced to march west out of Minnesota.

How It All Started

The conflict erupted when treaties restricted the lands of the Dakota people to an area that could no longer sustain them. Promised compensations were slow or non-existent and the Dakota people feared starvation heading into a brutal Minnesota winter.

The Dakota also faced terrible racism, one white settler historically quoting, "Let them eat grass."

As skirmishes and interactions between whites and Native people heightened on August 17, 1862, four young Dakota hunters were credited with killing five settlers. A war council was held that evening and a decision was made to go to war. Taoyateduta, Little Crow, supported the decision as is part of the council process, but he was apprehensive as were other Dakota leaders.

The U.S.-Dakota War of 1862

The U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 encompassed 37 days of fighting. The aftermath of the war fatality estimates included 77 American soldiers, 29 citizen-soldiers, 358 settlers and 29 Dakota warriors.

U.S. Colonel Henry H. Sibley contacted Taoyateduta in an attempt to stop the fighting but Sibley's requests, which included taking hostages, were denied.

In September of 1862, some Dakota left with their families. Other Dakota leaders surrendered to Sibley, who said he would only punish those who attacked the settlers. Sibley took more than 2,000 into custody.

The Military Commission That Sentenced Hundreds to Death

An immediate court of inquiry and military commission was created. The panel then

sentenced 20 Dakota to prison and 303 Dakota were sentenced to death. The time for the trials took 42 days between September 28 and November 8, 1862.

In the years since the convictions, historians often question whether a military commission was legitimate in cases where the main charges were murder, rape and robbery. Additionally, all of those appointed to the commission had fought in the war, which brings to question the bias of those handing out convictions.

Another point to consider is that most of the Dakota did not speak English, did not know that they were being tried for crimes and most did not have counsel defending them.

President Abraham Lincoln's Decision

The largest mass execution in American history occurred under Abraham Lincoln's watch. On December 26, 1862, 38 Dakota warriors were publicly hanged after being convicted of war crimes.

The largest mass execution in American history occurred under Abraham Lincoln's watch. On December 26, 1862, 38 Dakota warriors were publicly hanged after being convicted of war crimes.

Since the war commission was a military proceeding, President Abraham Lincoln had the ultimate say on the punishment, and asked to review all 303 execution convictions.

Initially, Lincoln considered approving execution where rape had been proven, but only two men would be executed. Lincoln decided on those convicted of participating in civilian massacres and approved 39 executions, though one was later suspended.

Lincoln had made a decision based on convictions that were based on witnesses, who testified in multiple trials, many of whom were also facing charges and possible execution. One witness gave evidence in 55 cases, who was later sentenced to hang (he was not part of the Dakota 38).

One of the condemned men, Hdainyanka, Rattling Runner, sent an angry letter to his father-in-law. "I have not killed, wounded or injured a white man or any white persons... and yet today I am set apart for execution."

Angelique EagleWoman, a Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota professor of law at the University of Idaho College of Law criticized the actions of Lincoln. She previously told Indian Country Today, "I think he should have followed general military practice at the time. They should have been released. He made a political decision, made based on the racial hatred... Lincoln was a lawyer, knew that this was improper."

The Execution

The 38 executions were originally scheduled for December 19, but were delayed for fear of mob retaliation. It was not until December 22 that the prisoners learned of their executions. On the 23rd, the condemned men danced and sang and were permitted visits with family to say goodbye.

At the same time as convictions were being doled out, a massive wagon train of approx-

imately 3,000 Dakota tribal members and prisoners moved out to Fort Snelling. A crowd attacked the Dakota community on their way out; one baby was pulled from its mother's arms and beaten to death.

As the prisoners made their way to Mankato—the location of the hanging scaffold created for the occasion— a crowd of men, women, and children threw bricks and stones, seriously injuring prisoners and guards. The hangings took place December 26, 1862.

It is believed that at least two men were executed at the mass hanging by mistake—one man answered to a name “Chaske” or “first son” that was misidentified and another young white man, raised by the Dakota, who had been acquitted but was hanged.

More than 4,000 people crowded the square. They cheered when the hanging was done.

The Minnesota Historical Society's U.S.-Dakota War website describes the execution and the aftermath:

“After dangling from the scaffold for a half hour, the men's bodies were cut down and hauled to a shallow mass grave on a sandbar between Mankato's main street and the Minnesota River. Before morning, most of the bodies had been dug up and taken by physicians for use as medical cadavers.”

In the days that followed, several prisoners were given pardons due to lack of evidence. Others were taken to a prison camp in Iowa.

More than 25 % of the thousands who surrendered to Sibley would be dead before the end of 1863. Thousands were exiled to the Dakotas, Montana or as far as Manitoba.

The List of Those Who Were Executed

The following is a list from Marion Satterlee's “A Detailed Account of the Massacre by the Dakota Indians of Minnesota in 1862,” published in 1923. The spellings and translations are as Satterlee recorded them.

A photocopy of her list and the hand-written list from Abraham Lincoln of those to be executed is found on a page of Minnesota Historical Society's U.S.-Dakota War website.

Tipi-hdo-niche, Forbids His Dwelling

Wyata-tonwan, His People

Taju-xa, Red Otter

1.4.32 Jeffers Petroglyphs (2022-12-22 23:35)

The Jeffers Petroglyphs site is an outcrop in southwestern Minnesota with pre-contact Native American petroglyphs. The petroglyphs are pecked into rock of the Red Rock Ridge, a 23-mile

(37 km)-long Sioux quartzite outcrop that extends from Watonwan County, Minnesota to Brown County, Minnesota. The exposed surface is approximately 150 by 650 feet (50 by 200 m) and surrounded by virgin prairie. "The site lies in an area inhabited in the early historic period by the Dakota Indians, and both the style and form of some of the carvings are identical with motifs that appear on Dakota hide paintings and their quill designs and beadwork. Others are foreign to this Plains Indian tradition and seem to be much earlier in origin." [2] Several old wagon trail ruts traverse the site, one of which is believed to be the old stage coach route from New Ulm, Minnesota to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. [3]

The exact age of the petroglyphs is not known, but the earliest petroglyphs are estimated to be from 9000 to 7000 years ago (7000 to 5000 BCE). [4] but some atlatl symbols at Jeffers are a close match with similar symbols at Indian Knoll in Kentucky, which have been dated to 3000 BCE during the Late Archaic Period. Another clue to the age comes from the projectile point carvings, which show a projectile point design used by hunters in the Late Archaic Period. Other carvings, such as thunderbirds, dragonflies, turtles, and shamans, indicate symbols used by later tribes such as the Ojibwe tribe, Sioux, and Iowa tribe. These are believed to date between 900 CE and 1750 CE. There are over 4000 American Indian images preserved in the bedrock. The bedrock was flattened and smoothed over by glaciers 14000 years ago. [5]

Turtle and man art

Several archaeologists have hypothesized theories about the purpose of the carvings. Some hypotheses include the practice of hunting magic, performance of sacred ceremonies, or recording historical events in the lives of warriors, shamans, and chiefs. The exact age and purpose of the carvings is only speculation, not established fact. Meanwhile, some Native Americans view the Jeffers site as sacred ground and a very spiritual place, not merely a site to be studied and speculated upon. Jerry Flute, a Dakota elder, was quoted as saying, "To the contemporary Native Americans who reside in and around the state, [Jeffers Petroglyphs] is a very spiritual place. It is a place where Grandmother Earth speaks of the past, present and future."

An example of a petroglyph

The Minnesota Historical Society purchased the site from W. R. Jeffers, Jr. in 1966 [3] and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. It is maintained by the Minnesota Historical Society and is open to the public between May and September. The site is bracketed by two important tracts of tallgrass prairie: Rock Ridge Prairie Scientific and Natural Area to the northwest [6] and Red Rock Prairie, a preserve of The Nature Conservancy, to the east. Here federally threatened prairie bush clover is found, as well as big bluestem, Indian grass, gray-headed coneflower, Maximilian's sunflower, cordgrass and coreopsis. The upland sandpiper, regal fritillary and Poweshiek skipper can be found on these prairies. [7]

The visitor center is open from May through September and features hands-on exhibits and a multimedia presentation about the site. Daily natural and cultural history programs are offered about such topics as archaeology, how Native Americans made and used the atlatl, a travois and cordage, and prairie wildlife and plants.

Contents

- 1 Astronomy at Jeffers Petroglyphs
- 2 References
- 3 Further reading
- 4 External links

Astronomy at Jeffers Petroglyphs

The Starry Night, Prairie Night event is held annually in the park.[8] During this time the park manager allows amateur astronomers to use the park and facilities. Many amateur astronomers attend this event and several members bring their telescopes and allow, and often encourage, others to share their views of the night sky.[9] This site is valued not only because of its historic nature but also because of its dark night skies. The site is much darker than most populated areas in Minnesota and is rated green[10] by the Clear Sky Chart.

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1.4.33 Archeological find in Walker may be one of oldest human sites (2022-12-22 23:45)

The ancient stone tools were found on a rugged, jackpine-forested hilltop not far from the shore of Leech Lake. Archeologists from the Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program were there in the fall of 2005 doing a routine survey on a road construction site.

Things got strange when the crew came across a small, cellar-like hole in the ground. At first they thought the hole might be a remnant of the fur trade. They called in Matt Mattson, a local expert in fur trade archeology, to check it out.

Knife

This crude knife was among about 50 stone tools unearthed in Walker. Archeologists say the tools appear to have been made at the end of the ice age, when glaciers may have been visible from the hilltop site in Walker.

Photo courtesy of Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program

When Mattson unearthed a cap gun and an Orange Crush bottle cap, he and others quickly concluded that kids had dug the hole decades ago, probably in the late 50s or early 60s, to make an underground fort.

But when they dug a little deeper, Mattson and the Heritage Sites crew found something else - a flake of stone that appeared to have been intentionally chipped away from a larger piece

of rock.

"And that was one of those uh-oh moments where, this doesn't fit," said Mattson. "It's the wrong place. It's the wrong depth. And right there we realized something wasn't fitting a normal pattern, as it were."

The Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program continued digging over the next few months on the one-acre site. They uncovered some 50 artifacts, mostly crude stone tools used for chopping, cutting or scraping. They're being studied at a lab in Cass Lake.

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What makes these tools so astounding is their apparent age. Archeologists believe they could have been used between 13,000 and 15,000 years ago, toward the end of the last Ice Age. That was a time when woolly mammoths, mastodons and giant beavers roamed the continent and much of Minnesota was covered by glaciers.

Men at work

A crew from the Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program excavates the site in Walker. Archeologists speculate that stone tools recovered there could have been used by prehistoric hunters as early as 15,000 years ago.

Photo courtesy Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program

The artifacts require much more analysis, according to Thor Olmanson, director of the Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program, a for-profit company owned by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Olmanson, who is the principal investigator at the Walker site, says that analysis is needed before the apparent age of the site will be broadly accepted by the scientific community.

"The initial response is doubt and skepticism, because it's commonly understood that there just isn't anything intact in glacial deposits," said Olmanson. "We're still in the process of analysis of the artifacts and the deposits themselves. So far, the only real indication of the age of the site is the soil deposits themselves, which we have on good authority are quite ancient."

If those early age estimates hold true, it puts researchers into uncharted territory. It means humans inhabited Minnesota more than 5,000 years earlier than scientists once thought.

It's possible those early humans may have been able to see huge glaciers from that hill-top in Walker, according to David Mather, an archeologist with the Minnesota Historical Society.

"We'd always imagined people first colonizing what became the state of Minnesota after the glaciers had melted," said Mather. "But this gives us a pretty vivid picture, assuming this all holds up, of people living maybe on the margins of glaciers of what's now northern Minnesota."

Brad Walthof

Walker Mayor Brad Walhof says it's not clear how the community's archeological site will affect

a major road and development project. Walhof says it's possible the city will end the road at the archeological site, pictured behind him, rather than running the road through the site.
MPR Photo/Tom Robertson

Mather says he's worried about the future of the Walker site. Right now, it's in the direct path of a road the city wants to build this summer. However, the city hasn't taken ownership of the land yet. That makes the legalities regarding preservation unclear. Mather says, ultimately, scientists will want to study the site for years to come.

"Regardless of the specific age, which does seem to be very, very ancient, this is the only one we know of, and we didn't think it was even possible for it to exist here," Mather said. "So if we destroy the only one, then there's no chance, really, for the research or the peer review."

The Walker City Council hasn't met yet to discuss its options. Mayor Brad Walhof says officials learned of the archeological discovery just this month.

"I was shocked that something like this would be found in our community," said Walhof. "If, in fact, this is the find they say it is, we could have been a tourist attraction for 15,000 years."

Walhof says if the city's \$1.3 million road project can't skirt around the archeological site, the road would likely dead end. That would effectively end the city's plan for a major residential and business expansion down the hill.

Walhof says the silver lining is that Walker will find new fame among history buffs.

"It's been the talk of the town within the last several weeks," said Walhof. "A lot of people are already talking about how this could possibly be a big attraction that people would want to come and see. I mean, something like this comes along how often? Once every 15,000 years."

The Walker City Council plans to meet Feb. 5 to decide how to proceed with its proposed expansion project.

Assuming the site is preserved, archeologists want to do more digging. But part of the area would likely be set aside for scientists of the future to explore with more sophisticated technologies.

1.4.34 Red Wing's "Stone Age" (2022-12-22 23:48)

Thanks to the limestone bluffs and hills that surrounded Red Wing, the town became a Minnesota lime-making and stone quarrying center from 1870 to 1910. Those forty years are sometimes known as the city's "Stone Age."

Swedish immigrant Gustavus Adolphus Carlson began making lime from local Red Wing limestone in 1871. Within the decade, Carlson's kilns were producing ninety barrels each day.

Red Wing lime producers used kilns to heat limestone to more than 1,640 degrees Fahrenheit. The process drove carbon dioxide from the rock, leaving powdery lime. When mixed with sand and water, lime made a sticky mortar used in construction projects to join brick and stone. It could also be used as plaster.

By the mid-1870s, G.A. Carlson owned Pioneer Lime and Stone, along with stone quarries on Red Wing's two most famous river bluffs, Barn and Sorin's. He built lime-burning kilns on both.

Carlson employed sixty-five workers, nearly all immigrant Swedes like himself. His crews needed to burn one ton of limestone to produce a half-ton of lime. A barrel of lime sold for 75 cents in 1874. Thus, Pioneer Lime and Stone could net \$300 in sales on 400 barrels, a typical workday output. Carlson's firm also sold stone.

Carlson's success led other Red Wing entrepreneurs to start their own firms. Robert Berglund, a former Carlson employee, Gust Lillyblad, and Andrew Danielson were among the most prominent. Berglund and Danielson opened separate quarry and kiln operations on the bluffs leading south out of Red Wing. Berglund's workers soon challenged Carlson's supremacy. The masts of stone-lifting derricks made his south Red Wing quarries appear like a little shipyard or harbor.

Railroads made use of the limestone rubble left over from blasting and burning. Tracks laid in areas exposed to erosion needed protection from washouts and cheap, yet heavy and durable limestone worked well. Limestone was also often used as a foundation for the new buildings springing up around Red Wing and elsewhere in the region, during the 1870s.

Modern technology improved the local lime and stone industries. Carlson's Barn Bluff quarry featured a ninety-foot perpendicular shaft to a 150-foot tunnel holding a railroad track. This shortcut helped produce stone more cheaply. On Sorin's Bluff, Carlson originated a cable rail system that allowed the weight of a loaded dump car lowered down the bluff to pull an emptied car back up.

Improved explosives also made quarrying easier and more efficient. Quarrymen drilled down through the rock, filled the hole with dynamite and attach a fuse. They added dry sand on top, allowing its weight to pack the charge. If the ensuing blast didn't free the stone, workers simply repeated the process.

By 1900, Red Wing was home to sixteen quarries. Carlson operated six kilns and three quarries in the 1890s. Berglund also flourished. He built his downtown headquarters in 1878-9 and clad it in handsome limestone. Across the street Berglund later built a Red Wing limestone giant, the 1886 Gladstone Building, now on the National Register of Historic Places. Danielson's quarries provided stone for the piers of Red Wing's first bridge across the Mississippi River.

Red Wing citizens worried when the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad secured a contract in 1906 to remove 200,000 cubic feet of Barn Bluff. They feared such action would eventually destroy the promontory. In January 1907 a dynamite blast injured six workers; three weeks later falling rock killed a laborer. Frequent and startling explosions from the blasting process could be felt all over the city and damaged houses near the bluffs. People in Ellsworth, Wisconsin, ten miles to the north, reported feeling tremors from the concussions.

Civic leaders began a movement to buy the quarry-scarred Barn Bluff and preserve the Red Wing landmark as a park. Necessary funds were raised, and on December 2, 1910, the city of Red Wing became the owner of Barn Bluff.

The loss of Barn Bluff's accessible stone and a reduced use of limestone in construction, coupled with a steep decline in the use of lime, dramatically changed the prospects for Red Wing quarry operators. The industry declined in the first decades of the twentieth century, and the last active quarry had closed by 1920.

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1.4.35 Merry Christmas (2022-12-25 01:01)

[1]



1. https://blogger.googleusercontent.com/img/b/R29vZ2xl/AVvXsEgSX8ivZMotXsS9jeIfXWCBZBazoLTD0s5aNuc2kZuqYDDGIRsoLNsICbyibv2ebz0at7J3Rcz2_1UCUMXAFiT9optnbqLAg_N4wRN

1.4.36 Utah's Most Famous RINO May Fall Off the Fence (2022-12-28 14:37)

It should come as no surprise to Utahns or anyone who identifies as conservative that Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) did not vote along party lines when it came to the \$1.7 trillion spending bill/omnibus package. Well, he did vote along party lines, just not the party with which he is affiliated. Romney took to Twitter to explain his rationale:

My thoughts on the government funding bill ↓ [1]pic.twitter.com/yhDE2Eku0i

— Senator Mitt Romney (@SenatorRomney) [2]December 22, 2022

If you couldn't stand a political version of a time-share pitch, let me summarize it for you:

- It would cost less to pass it this year than next.
- Republicans aren't organized enough to get a speaker together, let alone budgets.
- They need Senate Democrats to pass a budget, anyway.
- Sure, \$1.7 trillion *sounds* like a lot of money, but it only makes up 1/3 of government spending. The other 2/3, which include social security entitlements, Medicare, and Medicaid, are the real culprits when it comes to debt.
- The Electoral Count Act will stop attempts to overturn elections.

- The bill has some good things in it.
- Utah gets some money out of it.

The Law of Averages would indicate that there are indeed some good things in many bills that make them easier to pass. But mixed in with those “good things” is a plethora of awful things. That, of course, is the price Americans pay to pass a 4,000+ page bill full of items that Congress should have been working on all year long.

And did you catch the jab at the GOP? Republicans can’t pick a speaker, so they can’t create a budget. No, sir, not all members of the GOP want to rush something through for political favors and to score points on the Sunday morning talk shows. A working republic is not supposed to be easy. For crying out loud, Mitt, why don’t you just caucus with the Democrats already?

On top of all this, Romney has [3]said that, should he decide to run again, he would be re-elected, although he has not decided if he plans to throw his hairdo into the ring. And before you start laughing, it isn’t as far-fetched as you may think.

It is true that despite what some uninformed pundits and news outlets may tell you, Romney is not popular with the Republicans in Utah. The word “Romney” is well on its way to replacing “flip” and “fetch” as the substitute Mormons use for swear words. So his chances of getting through a convention are low. He didn’t even bother to attend the last GOP state convention. But Utah’s caucus/convention system is a threatened and endangered species.

Originally, candidates had to stump for their seats. That meant meeting with elected delegates either in a group or even one-on-one to

deliver a pitch and win the nod at the convention. But the caucus/convention system has long been under attack, and Utah now permits people to gather a requisite number of signatures to appear on the ballot. While Mike Lee won the convention, one of his left-leaning challengers had enough signatures to run against him in the primary. And I personally watched her supporters do everything possible to submarine the convention process to get her the nomination.

And keep in mind that, while Mike Lee did win his re-election bid, Evan McMullin gave him a run for his money, aided and abetted by Democrat money and a sympathetic press. Utah is not the conservative bastion that it used to be, especially when it comes to the media. Consider this [4]headline from the *Deseret News*: “Utahns call on Sen. Romney to protect Dreamers.” If you click on the link, you see that the number of protesters at the event numbered about 19. But from the headline, one would think that Utahns by the thousands are in support of DACA. And most people don’t bother to read much below the headline.

It makes perfect sense that Romney leans to the left and votes with the donkeys. He is betting on Democrats retaining power for the foreseeable future. He is also betting that Utah continues to drift blue and that he may be able to ride the fence to victory. And he just might.

1. <https://t.co/yhDE2Eku0i>
2. https://twitter.com/SenatorRomney/status/1606002450577883137?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
3. <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/12/21/romney-run-trump-senate-reelection-00074780>
4. <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2022/12/14/23509294/utahns-ask-mitt-romney-protect-dreamers>

1.4.37 Rand Paul Exposes the Ridiculous Things Government Wasted Your Money on This Year (2022-12-28 14:38)

Republican Senator Rand Paul is out with his [1]annual Festivus report, detailing how much taxpayer money the federal government wasted throughout the year.

“This year, I am highlighting a whopping \$482,276,543,907 of waste, including a steroid-induced hamster fight

club, a study to see if kids love their pets, and a study of the romantic patterns of parrots. No matter how much money's already been wasted, politicians keep demanding even more," Paul states in the report. "As always, the path to fiscal responsibility is often a lonely journey, but as I've done in years past, I will continue my fight against government waste this holiday season. So before we get to the Feats of Strength, it's time for my Airing of (spending) Grievances!"

The list of waste includes using COVID relief funds to construct an 11,000 square foot spa, using COVID relief funds to purchase luxury cars, unused hotel rooms for illegal immigrants, studying the romance between parrots, studying the social life and collective intelligence of ants, using mice to study racial aggression and much more.

"As if spending your money to research how humans feel and express love may sound ridiculous enough, the government is now funding research to see how parrots express love," the report found. "In fact, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) granted Cornell University \$689,222 to study social communication in parrots, studying patterns such as social outcomes, if they kiss, and how males make sexual advances."

This marks the eighth edition of the [2] #Festivus Report as I continue working to alert the American people to how their federal government uses their hard-earned money. Read it here: [3]<https://t.co/JeLZjzzDxG> [4]pic.twitter.com/eGQlaiGG6i— Senator Rand Paul (@SenRandPaul) [5]December 23, 2022

Good morning everyone and welcome to everyone's favorite holiday - [6] #Festivus!

[7]pic.twitter.com/g8xM8QER9y— Rand Paul (@RandPaul) [8]December 23, 2022

The report comes less than 24-hours after the Senate, with help from Republicans, passed a monstrous \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill packed with pork. It also passed in the House.

I attempted to hold both parties accountable by forcing votes on these rules but per usual, a majority in the Senate - including Republicans - chose to run up the debt, ignore our own budget rules, and abuse your tax dollars. The American people don't want this.— Rand Paul (@RandPaul) [9]December 22, 2022

I wonder how long it would take the clerk to read this... [10]pic.twitter.com/iaphBzTEsS— Rand Paul (@RandPaul) [11]December 20, 2022
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"This year, I am highlighting a whopping \$482,276,543,907 of waste, including a steroid-induced hamster fight club, a study to see if kids love their pets, and a study of the romantic patterns of parrots. No matter how much money's already been wasted, politicians keep demanding even more," Paul states in the report. "As always, the path to fiscal responsibility is often a lonely journey, but as I've done in years past, I will continue my fight against government waste this holiday season. So before we get to the Feats of Strength, it's time for my Airing of (spending) Grievances!"
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Recommended

[13]

[14]Michelle O's Moment of Unscripted Honesty – Oops! [15]Mark Lewis

This marks the eighth edition of the [16] #Festivus

Report as I continue working to alert the American people to how their federal government uses their hard-earned money. Read it here:

[17]<https://t.co/JeLZjzzDxG> [18]pic.twitter.com/eGQIaiGG6i

— Senator Rand Paul (@SenRandPaul) [19]December 23, 2022

Good morning everyone and welcome to everyone's favorite holiday – [20] #Festivus! [21]pic.twitter.com/g8xM8QER9y

— Rand Paul (@RandPaul) [22]December 23, 2022

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report comes less than 24-hours after the Senate, with help from Republicans, passed a monstrous \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill packed with pork. It also passed in the House.

I attempted to hold

both parties accountable by forcing votes on these rules but per usual, a majority in the Senate – including Republicans – chose to run up the debt, ignore our own budget rules, and abuse your tax dollars. The American people don't want this.

— Rand Paul (@RandPaul) [23]December 22, 2022

I wonder how long it would take the clerk to read this...

[24]pic.twitter.com/iaphBzTEsS

— Rand Paul (@RandPaul) [25]December 20, 2022

1. <https://www.paul.senate.gov/sites/default/files/page-attachments/Festivus%202023%20Clean%20AJS%20edits%205p.pdf>

2. https://twitter.com/hashtag/Festivus?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

3. <https://t.co/JeLZjzzDxG>

4. <https://t.co/eGQIaiGG6i>

5. https://twitter.com/SenRandPaul/status/1606306498115575808?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

6. https://twitter.com/hashtag/Festivus?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

7. <https://t.co/g8xM8QER9y>

8. https://twitter.com/RandPaul/status/1606308003740667905?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

9. https://twitter.com/RandPaul/status/1606023510769274881?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

10. <https://t.co/iaphBzTEsS>

11. https://twitter.com/RandPaul/status/1605288779660812289?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

12. <https://www.paul.senate.gov/sites/default/files/page-attachments/Festivus%202023%20Clean%20AJS%20edits%205p.pdf>
 13. <https://townhall.com/columnists/marklewis/2022/12/28/michelle-os-moment-of-unscripted-honesty-oops-n2617623>
 14. <https://townhall.com/columnists/marklewis/2022/12/28/michelle-os-moment-of-unscripted-honesty-oops-n2617623>
 15. <https://townhall.com/columnists/marklewis/2022/12/28/michelle-os-moment-of-unscripted-honesty-oops-n2617623>
 16. https://twitter.com/hashtag/Festivus?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 17. <https://t.co/JeLZjzzDxG>
 18. <https://t.co/eGQIaiGG6i>
 19. https://twitter.com/SenRandPaul/status/1606306498115575808?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 20. https://twitter.com/hashtag/Festivus?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 21. <https://t.co/g8xM8QER9y>
 22. https://twitter.com/RandPaul/status/1606308003740667905?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 23. https://twitter.com/RandPaul/status/1606023510769274881?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 24. <https://t.co/iaphBzTEsS>
 25. https://twitter.com/RandPaul/status/1605288779660812289?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
-

1.4.38 DeSantis Delivers Another Blow to Teachers Unions (2022-12-28 14:39)

Florida Republican Governor Ron DeSantis is taking on the teachers unions by asking the legislature to eliminate automatic union dues reductions from educator paychecks.

“Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida promised Monday to sign a bill into law that would increase teacher pay by a record amount — but he also wants to clamp down on teachers’ unions. The plan DeSantis outlined at a school board retreat in Orlando would have teachers send a check to their unions every month rather than automatically deduct the dues from their paychecks,” Business Insider reports. “DeSantis’ plan would create a new hurdle for organized labor in Florida, whose “Right to Work” status is already enshrined in the state constitution. Under current law, Florida workers can opt out of joining a union, which in turn restricts unions from collecting dues from employees who benefit from negotiated worker protections.”

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NEW: Gov. Ron DeSantis says he wants a “Paycheck Protection” bill passed.

He says it prevents government from deducting union dues from teacher paychecks. Instead, teachers would need to write checks to the unions.

“That maximizes freedom to choose” pic.twitter.com/7ouyogmATm

— Lydia Nusbaum (@LydiaNusbaum) December 19, 2022

In addition, DeSantis is touting Florida as a state respectful of parental rights in education.

1

2

In Florida, we are committed to protecting parents’ right to be involved in their child’s education, and we are proud to be leading the charge nationwide. pic.twitter.com/fExLdQqOHL

— Ron DeSantis (@GovRonDeSantis) December 12, 2022

1.4.39 China May Be Too Right-Wing for American Leftists (2022-12-28 14:40)

China is certainly one of the most totalitarian countries in the world, and such is what endears it to Western Leftists. Yet, even China hasn’t gone as extreme as American liberals have, and this could be a source of irritation to our radicals. Except they are too busy destroying America to care much what China is doing.

Still, in several ways, China is more “conservative” than the American left. I want to examine this interesting point.

But before I do that, let me mention a couple of matters where China is the idol of the American Left and why. This list could obviously be lengthened, but I will discuss only two points.

1. *China's one-party, totalitarian system.* The Democrats would love to have a one-party state in America. There are no elections in China, except within the CCP, and the common people have no say in what political viewpoint rules their country. It's Marxism/socialism/Xi-ism or nothing. Having no elections is easier than stealing them. There is also no "separation of powers" in the Chinese system. The Democrats idolize that, too. They can't get around it (yet) in America, but if they could pack the Supreme Court, and take over both houses of Congress and the Presidency, separation of powers would be meaningless. But it still exists. Oh, for the Chinese system, dreams the American Marxist!

2. *The COVID-19 lockdowns.* The CCP has recently eased these restrictions somewhat, which must have disappointed American liberals, but China could re-institute them (and might) at a moment's notice. And that's the key here. The lockdowns are not as important as the definition of "freedom." In a totalitarian state, all power resides in the government. Thus, any "freedoms" the people have come from the government. Freedoms given can obviously be taken away. In the American system, of course, our freedoms come from God, and we have a constitution to protect us (theoretically) from government tyranny. The American Left hates that system passionately, and again, has wet dreams about instituting the Chinese system here. Only you and I are preventing them from doing that.

Ending the lockdowns will actually help the Chinese people, though their leadership doesn't care about that. There has been an explosion of new Covid cases since the lockdown policy was relaxed, and this will enable people to develop a natural immunity to the virus, the strongest weapon against it, and something that should have happened long ago. The CCP's future policy, however, will depend totally on how the government perceives its need to control the people, not on what is good for their health.

Let me now shift to some areas where the Chinese aren't quite so orthodox to American Leftists.

1. *There is no illegal immigration into China.* I knew an American English teacher who long overstayed his visa in China. They finally caught him and threw his butt in jail for a month. Then they kicked him out of the country with a “don’t ever come back.” What a novel concept.

China protects its borders. They don’t want the riffraff of the world invading, diluting their culture, dividing the country into 1,000 splintered sects, and destroying the unity of the people and nation. China has limited “minority” problems and doesn’t want more. Not what American liberals think is best, obviously.

2. *China cares nothing about “globalist” or “green” ideology.* Oh, the CCP pays lip service to “globalism” and the “green” agenda, all while buying more oil and building more coal plants. Look at what they do, not at what they say. The only “globalism” China believes in is the entire globe serving them, and the only “green” they worship is the color of money (American capital investment) and their country’s military uniforms. The Chinese military is being trained to fight wars (another novel concept), unlike the utterly brainless American Leftist ideal of turning the armed forces into an experiment in social engineering and “equity.” We better not fight a war with China any time soon.

3. *China thinks “woke” is a joke.* A few months before I left China, I posted, on a Chinese social media platform, a picture which had a British Labour MP saying, “Some women are born with penises.” I received several hoots and hollers from Chinese people who thought that was hilarious. “Beyond stupidity,” was one totally accurate response. You see, the one thing the Chinese do NOT want is an infiltration of Western moral decadence. They see what it is doing to America, and thus Xi Jinping is very carefully managing the influx of that kind of garbage into his country. Divorce is going up some in China, and one will run across the occasional homosexual. But homosexuality is still frowned upon in most of China, and homosexuals

are still in the closet. The nuclear family remains the most important institution to the Chinese people, and as long as it doesn't threaten the government, the CCP will leave it alone. In fact, it better. The one thing that would almost certainly destroy Marxism in China is if the CCP tried to do there, to the family, what American liberals are doing to it in America. There is no mutilation of children or "transgender" movement in China waving its genitals in the faces of minors. Those people would disappear faster than "free Hong Kong" dissidents. To the Chinese, perversion is perversion, they understand what it is, and that it destroys the family, which they know is the foundation of civilized culture and society. They laugh at and mock American moral degeneration. Such will annihilate us, and they have sense enough to know it. It's a shame we don't.

China has a despicable, murderous, totalitarian government, with a lot of thieves, liars, and cheats. It's why I left the place. But, in general, the Chinese are good people with a whole lot more common sense than what is being displayed by the American Left today. China is winning because America is playing with itself.

1.4.40 Supreme Court Rules on Title 42 (2022-12-28 14:42)

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that Title 42 will stay for a little while longer following a lengthy legal battle after the Biden administration attempted to remove the public health order earlier this year and last week.

Breaking: Title 42 remains in effect for now- ruled by Supreme Court 5-4. This means US can continue to expel illegal migrants based on public health per [1]@ShannonBream— Matt Finn (@MattFinnFNC) [2]December 27, 2022

BREAKING: The Supreme Court keeps the Trump-era Title 42 border policy in effect for now. The court says it will hear argument in February over whether red states can intervene in the litigation over the policy. The vote is 5-4, with Neil Gorsuch joining the three liberals.— SCOTUSblog (@SCOTUSblog) [3]December 27, 2022

Just in: The Supreme Court has GRANTED a request from GOP states to pause a lower court ruling against the Title 42 border expulsion policy. This means Title 42 stays in place for now.

High court also agreed to take up the case to consider if the states may intervene here. [4]pic.twitter.com/lrgFzc8YQc— Suzanne Monyak (@SuzanneMonyak) [5]December 27, 2022

BREAKING: SCOTUS rules Title 42 must remain in place at the border while legal challenges play out. [6]@FoxNews

However,
it continues to be used less and less due to diplomacy, as there are certain nationalities that MX won't take back & home countries won't accept repatriation.— Bill Melugin (@BillFOXLA) [7]December 27, 2022

Title 42 allows Border Patrol to quickly expel illegal immigrants to prevent transmission of COVID-19 among themselves and to agents while being processed. Republicans at the state and federal level said it was necessary to keep Title 42 in place so law enforcement can turn away people amid record-breaking records for illegal crossings. Immigration advocates said the order violates people's rights to claim asylum and it does not secure the border since no punishments attached to the expulsions means they can cross multiple times.

Title 42 is one of the last border policies carried over from the Trump administration. Once he got into office, President Joe Biden followed through or tried to make good on his campaign promises to make the border less secured, such as halting construction on the border wall, getting rid of the Migrant Protection Protocols, and stopping all deportations during his first 100 days.

Despite Title 42 being in place during the entirety of the Biden administration, there has still been an historic increase in illegal crossings. The border town of El Paso, Texas has been hit hard in recent weeks as that area has become the latest popular spot for illegal immigrants, causing tremendous strain on city resources. Hundreds of both processed and released migrants and people who avoided apprehension from Border Patrol have been sleeping in below freezing temperatures since shelters and churches have no space.

The migrant homeless situation on the streets of El Paso has gotten worse as the encampments have grown in size since last week, all the while the status of Title 42 is still up in the air. The temps are expected to drop to the 30's tonight —> [8]<https://t.co/zDyeRFsnRm> [9][pic.twitter.com/cZwjhE0YQq](https://t.co/zDyeRFsnRm)— Julio Rosas (@Julio_Rosas11) [10]December 21, 2022

1. https://twitter.com/ShannonBream?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
2. https://twitter.com/MattFinnFNC/status/1607848737061076992?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
3. https://twitter.com/SCOTUSblog/status/1607850381693812738?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. <https://t.co/lrgFzc8YQc>
5. https://twitter.com/SuzanneMonyak/status/1607847323824001025?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
6. https://twitter.com/FoxNews?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
7. https://twitter.com/BillFOXLA/status/1607850148507570176?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
8. <https://t.co/zDyeRFsnRm>

9. <https://t.co/cZwjhEOYQq>

10. https://twitter.com/Julio_Rosas11/status/1605359262242422785?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

1.4.41 Surging Retail Crime Brings More Bad News for Consumers' Wallets (2022-12-28 14:45)

It's not just violent crime that's hitting communities across America in 2022, there's also less lethal — but still impactful — retail crime that's surging as prices remain elevated and punishments for criminals are rolled back. Walking through stores, Americans are now finding things such as Ben & Jerry's ice cream locked up in their freezer cases. Items like laundry detergent now have anti-theft devices normally reserved for big ticket purchases like iPads. Even buying deodorant now requires an employee to unlock a case like it's a diamond ring in a jewelry store.

If that reality seems bleak, it's because it is. Not only has surging retail crime forced drug stores, major retailers, and grocers to engage in dystopian looking security measures, it's hitting their bottom lines. Big time.

While we won't know the full scope of the cost to retailers in 2022, we know that 2021 saw retailers' total losses from "shrink" — inventory loss from theft — surge to more than \$94 billion. That amount is nearly 1.5 percent of retailers' revenue for the same year.

Walmart CEO Doug McMillon explained that 2022 didn't bring any reduction in retail crimes such as shoplifting, organized or otherwise. "Theft is an issue. It's higher than what it has historically been," McMillon said on CNBC amid the recent spike in theft that's impacting Walmart's 4,720 stores in the United States.

He added that, without action to address the shoplifting surge, "prices will be higher, and/or stores will close."

Target is also facing tough decisions as a result of thefts, reporting earlier in 2022 that they were seeing 50 percent more shoplifting incidents at a cost of some \$400 million.

The result of increased retail crime — whether the organized smash-and-grabs by groups of people or one-off thefts by individuals — means that, as Walmart's CEO noted, prices will

increase to make up for losses and locations that continually get hit will likely close. Already, retailers around San Francisco, New York, and elsewhere have shuttered locations where theft was frequent, and others changed their hours to avoid being open during prime crime time.

Due to lax prosecutorial guidelines in those areas and other cities where Democrats have taken control of district attorney offices while continuing to wage their war on police officers, retail crime — like other offenses — will continue without apprehension or punishment.

For criminals, the old saying "if you can't do the time, don't do the crime" has been turned on its head to be "do the crime because you won't do time." But for law-abiding Americans already struggling to make ends meet due to inflation or having difficulty finding the items they need, this all means things won't get any better. Prices will increase to make up for losses, and store closures will mean more pressure to keep common goods in stock at fewer locations for more consumers.

1.4.42 Yikes! Life Is Getting Shorter in America (2022-12-28 14:47)

It's one thing when government raises your taxes, suffocates your business with regulations or censors your tweets. It's far worse when government is to blame for actually shortening your life.

U.S. life expectancy dropped to 76.4 years, the lowest in 25 years, according to new federal data. Americans should be gasping. What could be more important than having the chance to live a long life?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention repeatedly has blown its responses to health killers like fentanyl, COVID and lung cancer. All the while, life expectancy gets shorter and shorter.

In 1980, Americans had one of the best life expectancies in the world. Since then, the U.S. has lost ground. People live several years longer in France, Switzerland, Italy and other highly developed countries, reaching ages 83 or 84 on average. Residents of the Czech Republic, Chile and Slovenia can expect longer lives than Americans. Even before COVID, the U.S. ranked 29th in life expectancy, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The virus merely widened an already alarming gap between the U.S. and other nations.

Now, life expectancy in these other nations is rebounding from COVID, while American lives continue to be cut short due to other causes.

Start with the failure of our government, especially the CDC, to tackle the leading cause of death among Americans ages 18 to 49: overdosing. Two-thirds of these deaths are from fentanyl.

Nearly 107,000 Americans died of overdoses in 2021, about 50 % more than just two years earlier.

Where's the campaign to combat fentanyl deaths? Over the last half-century, U.S. health agencies waged several stunningly successful media campaigns to dissuade Americans from smoking cigarettes. The CDC has done nothing like that to fight this new killer.

Blame the agency's mission confusion. In September 2021, as overdoses soared and COVID raged, the CDC launched a campaign for "inclusive communication." The agency instructed health care workers to avoid stigmatizing words like "illegal immigrant" and substitute "parent" for

gender-tainted terms like "mother" and "father." As if political correctness is more important than preventing deaths.

The CDC's

failed response to COVID further depressed American life expectancy. Agency head Rochelle Walensky said, "To be frank, we are responsible for some pretty dramatic, pretty public mistakes, from testing to data to communications." The U.S. has had a higher per capita death rate from COVID than other developed countries, including the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Canada.

As COVID fades, the CDC's inaction on another front – lung cancer screening – is limiting progress on life expectancy for cancer patients, where the U.S. is otherwise a leader.

Lung

cancer is the No. 1 cancer killer, taking about 130,000 lives a year. That's more than breast, prostate and colon cancer deaths combined. Because lung cancer is rarely diagnosed before it spreads, the chances of survival are an abysmal 18 %.

But when lung cancer is diagnosed early with a CT chest scan, a patient has an 80 % chance of living another 20 years, reports Claudia Henschke, a radiology expert at Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine in New York City. That sure beats 18 %.

The scan takes 15 minutes lying flat on a table that glides in and out of the scanning machine. There's no squeezing like with a mammogram and no yucky preparation like with a colonoscopy.

The technology

is widely available, recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and covered by insurance, but few doctors know to order it, and few patients know to ask. Blame the CDC for this knowledge gap. Only 15 % of Americans who need lung screening are getting it.

On Dec. 20,

the White House announced a pilot project to "screen and treat" cancer. Oh, sorry, that's not for the U.S. It's for women in Botswana. Laughable if it weren't so tragic.

Ten years ago, Americans were told the biggest health challenge was the uninsured. Congress passed Obamacare. Now only 9 % of Americans are uninsured, but the whole nation faces the prospect of shorter life expectancy.

For those lost years, you can thank federal health officials, especially the dysfunctional CDC. Call it the Centers for Decline and Confusion.

1.4.43 On Christmas, Christians Remain Persecuted Around the World (2022-12-28 14:53)

As Christians in the United States and all around the world celebrate Christmas, those who follow the teachings of Jesus remain some of the most persecuted people on earth.

According to data compiled by [1]Open Doors, an international network dedicated to helping persecuted Christians, thousands of believers were killed in 2022 for their faith.

Over 360 million Christians living in places where they experience high levels of persecution and discrimination

5,898 Christians killed for their faith

5,110 churches and other Christian buildings attacked

4,765 believers detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned

Authoritarian, communist governments are the perpetrators, in addition to Islamic terrorist organizations.

"Christian

persecution takes place under authoritarian governments. In places like North Korea or Eritrea, authoritarian governments seek to control all religious thought and expression as part of a comprehensive plan to tightly oversee all aspects of political and everyday life. These governments regard some religious groups as enemies of the state because they hold religious beliefs that may challenge loyalty to the rulers,"

Open Doors reports. "In

places like the Middle East and Nigeria, Islamic extremist groups terrorize communities and churches, killing those they consider to be "infidels" (often in coordinated bombings), raping and kidnapping women and burning down homes and churches. Their victims can be fellow adherents of a religion—for instance, Boko Haram attacks on Muslims in Nigeria—but they always target Christians out of hatred for other faiths."

Earlier this month the U.S. Department of State announced

[2]additional funding for programs

encouraging religious tolerance around the world but more specifically, in Nigeria.

1. <http://opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/>
 2. <https://www.state.gov/drl-fy22-irf-empower-youth-leaders-to-advance-religious-tolerance-in-nigeria/>
-

1.4.44 New Twitter Files Reveal How Government Censored Debate on COVID-19 (2022-12-28 14:55)

The latest installment of the Twitter Files reveals how the federal government worked to censor and quash debate about the COVID-19 pandemic, including information about the disease's origins and the efficacy of vaccines.

On Monday, the details were revealed.

2.

So far the Twitter Files have focused on evidence of Twitter's secret blacklists; how the company functioned as a kind of subsidiary of the FBI; and how execs rewrote the platform's rules to accommodate their own political desires. — David Zweig (@davidzweig) [1]December 26, 2022

4.

The United States government pressured Twitter and other social media platforms to elevate certain content and suppress other content about Covid-19. — David Zweig (@davidzweig) [2]December 26, 2022

6.

At the onset of the pandemic, according to meeting notes, the Trump admin was especially concerned about panic buying. They came looking for "help from the tech companies to combat misinformation" about "runs on grocery stores." But . . . there were runs on grocery stores. [3]pic.twitter.com/duzk2I1Y7T — David Zweig (@davidzweig) [4]December 26, 2022

8.

When the Biden admin took over, one of their first meeting requests with Twitter executives was on Covid. The focus was on "anti-vaxxer accounts." Especially Alex Berenson: [5]pic.twitter.com/yBNeF2YbD3 — David Zweig (@davidzweig) [6]December 26, 2022

10.

Berenson sued (and then settled with) Twitter. In the legal process Twitter was compelled to release certain internal communications, which

showed direct White House pressure on the company to take action on Berenson.

[7]<https://t.co/CHt0s7ZqfQ> [8]pic.twitter.com/dFgRmyRB3z — David Zweig (@davidzweig) [9]December 26, 2022

12.

Culbertson wrote that the Biden team was “very angry” that Twitter had not been more aggressive in deplatforming multiple accounts. They wanted Twitter to do more. [10]pic.twitter.com/IZTQV3yKeZ — David Zweig (@davidzweig) [11]December 26, 2022

14. But Twitter

did suppress views—many from doctors and scientific experts—that conflicted with the official positions of the White House. As a result, legitimate findings and questions that would have expanded the public debate went missing. — David Zweig (@davidzweig) [12]December 26, 2022

The list goes on, with more coming next week.

Much more to The Twitter Files: Covid Edition than this introductory thread.

Follow-up piece to come next week, featuring leading doctors & researchers from Harvard, Stanford & other institutions. [13]<https://t.co/TeEeCvMZa2> — Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [14]December 26, 2022

But

Twitter wasn't the only social media platform to censor information related to the pandemic. More specifically, questions about Dr. Anthony Fauci's role in the frankensteining of viruses at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which the NIH heavily funded under his watch.

In spring 2020 Fauci [15] worked with Facebook to eliminate any mention of the lab leak theory on the platform.

A

newly surfaced email from CEO Mark Zuckerberg, which was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request from BuzzFeed, may explain why Facebook was censoring the information.

"Tony: I wanted to

send a note of thanks for your leadership and everything you're doing to make our country's response to this outbreak as effective as possible. I also wanted to share a few ideas of ways we could help you get your message out but I understand you're incredibly busy, so don't feel a need to reply unless these seem interesting," Zuckerberg wrote in an email to Fauci on March 15, 2020, adding that he wanted to help get "authoritative" information out to the masses.

Fauci responded to Zuckerberg directly and worked with him on a number of messaging projects for the platform.

When

Fauci was asked about the lab leak theory in April 2020, he downplayed the idea. Facebook then started removing posts and conversations about the lab leak theory from their platform.

After a year of suppression and proof the lab leak theory was true, Facebook [16] issued a mea culpa .

"Facebook

will no longer take down posts claiming that Covid-19 was man-made or manufactured, a company spokesperson told POLITICO on Wednesday, a move that acknowledges the renewed debate about the virus' origins."

"Facebook's

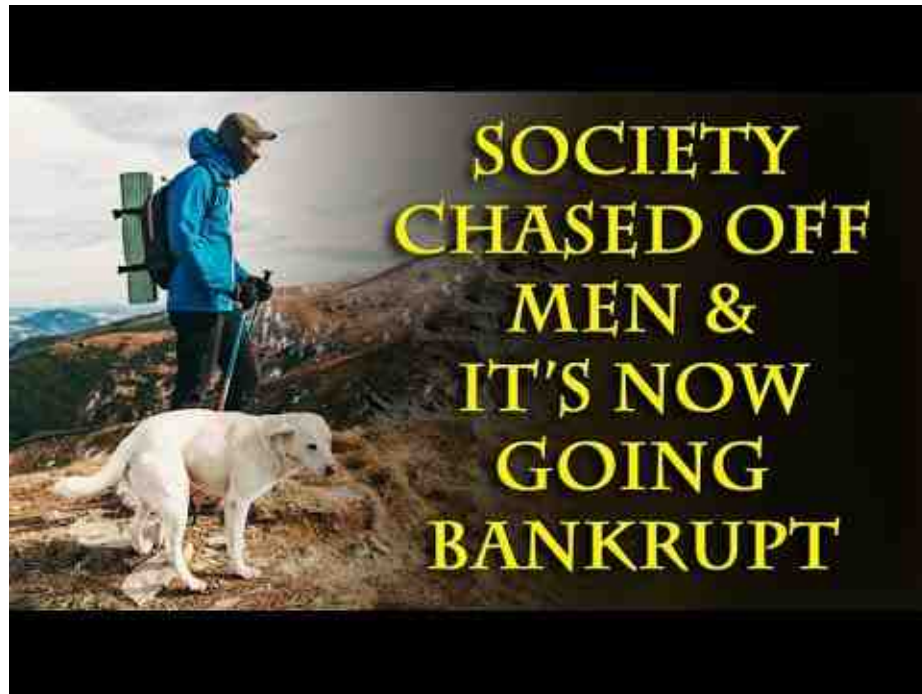
policy tweak arrives as support surges in Washington for a fuller investigation into the origins of Covid-19 after the Wall Street Journal reported that three scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology were hospitalized in late 2019 with symptoms consistent with the virus. The findings have reinvigorated the debate about the so-called Wuhan lab-leak theory, once dismissed as a fringe conspiracy theory."

1. https://twitter.com/davidzweig/status/1607379394204516354?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 2. https://twitter.com/davidzweig/status/1607380401328369664?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 3. <https://t.co/duzk2I1Y7T>
 4. https://twitter.com/davidzweig/status/1607381544351698948?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 5. <https://t.co/yBNeF2YbD3>
 6. https://twitter.com/davidzweig/status/1607382379018190849?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 7. <https://t.co/CHt0s7ZqfQ>
 8. <https://t.co/dFgRmyRB3z>
 9. https://twitter.com/davidzweig/status/1607383214452080647?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 10. <https://t.co/lZTQV3yKeZ>
 11. https://twitter.com/davidzweig/status/1607383819287515137?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 12. https://twitter.com/davidzweig/status/1607384343726399488?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 13. <https://t.co/TeEeCvMZa2>
 14. https://twitter.com/elonmusk/status/1607416119496945665?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 15. <https://townhall.com/columnists/rachelalexander/2022/12/26/the-dismissal-of-kari-lakes-election-lawsuit-shows-voter-disenfranchisement-no-longer-matters-n261756>
 16. <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/26/facebook-ban-covid-man-made-491053>
-

1.4.45 Women have FINALLY removed the last reason to marry them. Thank you, lad... (2022-12-29 16:43)



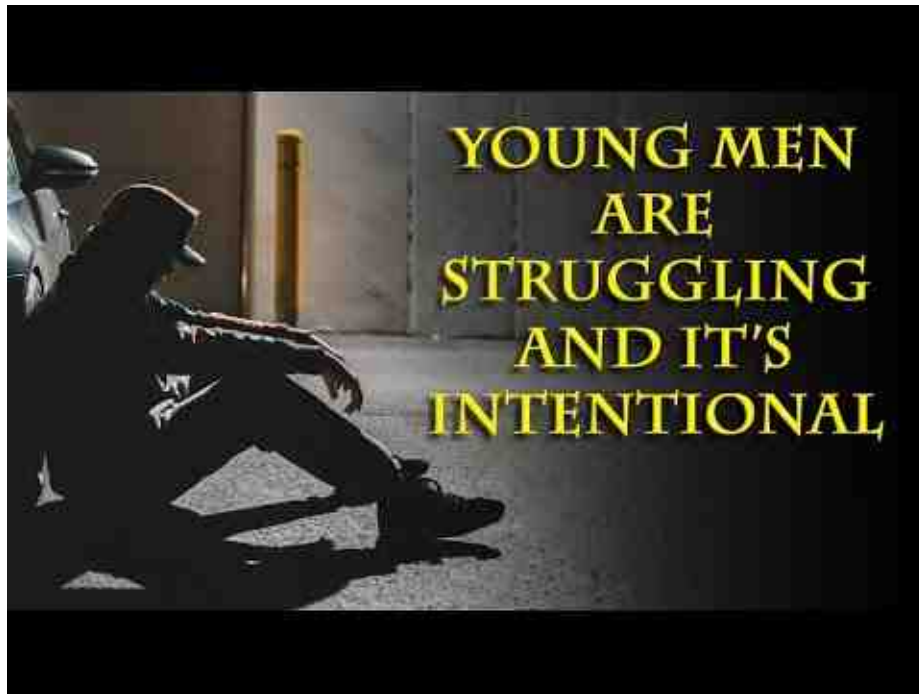
1.4.46 Isolating the Earners & Debt Economy: The world starts to feel the pain
(2022-12-29 16:44)



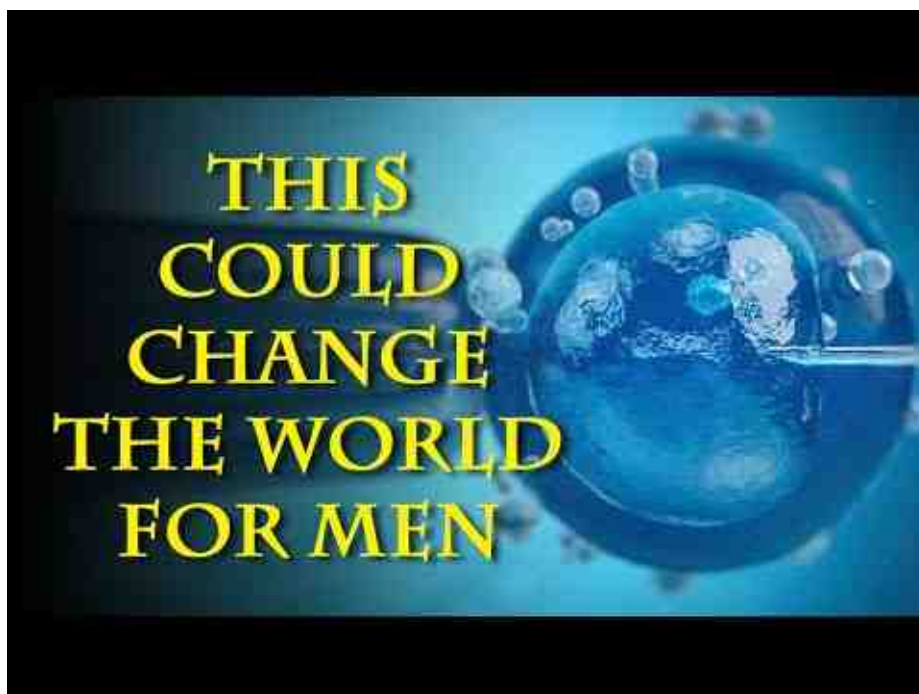
1.4.47 For a decade, women have OUT EARNED men, yet they still claim to be 'hel...
(2022-12-29 16:45)



1.4.48 Young men are being held back, and it's 100% on purpose. (2022-12-29 16:46)



1.4.49 This would mostly end the ability for women to manipulate men. Game chan... (2022-12-29 16:47)



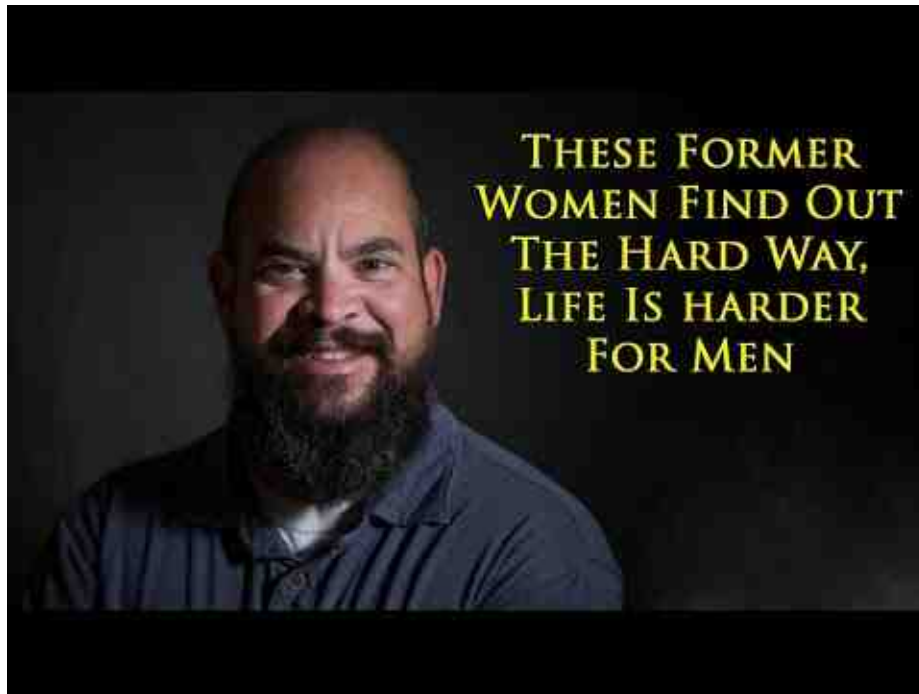
- 1.4.50** She leaves a guy at rock bottom, but when he becomes a winner, she's fur...
(2022-12-29 16:48)



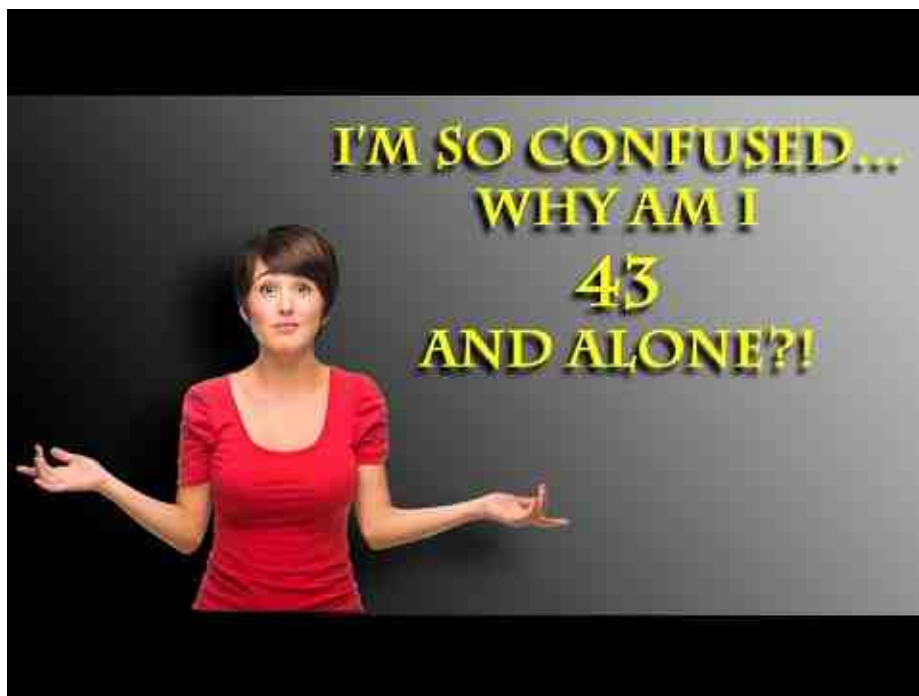
-
- 1.4.51** An 18 year old tries swiping as a guy and realizes women are awful on da...
(2022-12-29 16:49)



1.4.52 Previous females, now male, explain life isn't better as a man, it's much harder (2022-12-29 16:53)



1.4.53 What happens when she's 40 but still thinks she's desired like a 20 something (2022-12-29 16:55)



1.4.54 If this isn't enough of a slap in the face for you fellas, you're on you...
(2022-12-29 16:57)



1.4.55 The New, New Antisemitism (2022-12-31 14:50)

The old antisemitism was more a right-wing than a left-wing phenomenon - perhaps best personified by the now-withered Ku Klux Klan.

New antisemitism followed from the campus leftism of the 1960s. It arose from and was masked by a general hatred of Israel, following the Jewish state's incredible victory in the 1967 Six-Day War.

That lopsided triumph globally transformed Israel in the leftist mind from a David fighting the Arab Goliath into a veritable Western imperialist, neocolonialist overdog.

On campuses, Middle-East activism, course instruction, and faculty profiles are now virulently anti-Israel - and indistinguishable from anti-Jewishness.

When columnist Ben Shapiro spoke at Stanford University in 2019, left-wing posters were plastered around campus depicting Shapiro as an insect menace. A "BenBGon" bug spray bottle in Nazi fashion unsobtly suggested that a chemical agent is the best remedy to make sure Jews "be gone" from the premises.

The avowed socialist Representative Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., retweeted the old propaganda boast, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

Tlaib knew well "to the sea" could mean only the extinction of Israel itself and its 9 million Jews. She deleted her tweet, but only after an outcry of protest.

Anti-Zionists and leftist Palestinian activists Linda Sarsour and Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn. - "it's all about the Benjamins" - often made no effort to hide their antisemitism.

Yet now a dangerous new, new antisemitism is trending, predominantly among African-Americans - especially prominent politicians, celebrities, and billionaires.

The old trope that blacks inordinately were prejudiced against Jews due to past inner-city stereotypes of exploiting Jewish landlords has been recalibrated. It is now repackaged by black elites claiming that their careers are overly profitable to and orchestrated by "the Jews."

It has been difficult to find any major black leader who has not trafficked in antisemitism, whether Jesse Jackson ("Hymietown"), Al Sharpton ("tell them to pin their yarmulkes back"), Louis Farrakhan ("gutter religion") or former President Barack Obama's former pastor, Jeremiah Wright ("Them Jews").

Yet what is different about the new, new antisemitism is the open defiance, often even or especially when exposed.

Kayne West was met with pushback after warning, "I'm going death con 3 On JEWISH PEOPLE." Yet he trumped that by soon praising Adolf Hitler.

The Black Hebrew movement absurdly claims blacks are the real Biblical Jews, and Jews the imposters. Black Lives Matter clumsily disguised its antisemitism when claiming Israelis were committing mass genocide in the Middle East.

When novelist Alice Walker was chastised for praising virulent antisemite David Icke (he claimed that Jews formed a cabal of "lizard people"), she too was unremorseful. Walker retorted that Icke was "brave" for publishing his nutty rants.

Rappers from Public Enemy and Ice Cube to Jay-Z and Kanye West all spouted anti-Jewish venom. And billionaires, from the late Michael Jackson to LeBron James, dabbled in antisemitic talk, the first in lines from lyrics, the second in retweets.

In the hate-crime statistics, blacks as perpetrators are overrepresented, and, as victims, Jews and Asians are overrepresented. "Knock out the Jew" occasionally resurfaces as a common sport among New York city black youth.

In our "woke" age, race is seen as an indemnity policy for any self-described victim. Thus even elite blacks, as the still oppressed, cannot be seen as oppressors against "white" Jews.

Wokeism's competitive victimization often embraces Holocaust denial. That way the systematic slaughter of 6 million Jews in an industrial fashion does not overshadow the need for a reparatory legacy to atone for slavery and Jim Crow.

When Whoopi Goldberg claimed the Holocaust was not about race and was, for a while, suspended from her morning chat show, she only temporarily apologized. Goldberg this week

returned to claiming that the Holocaust was only a crime by white people against white people.

In her ignorance, she was oblivious that Hitler and the Nazis did not believe Jews to be fully human at all.

Among black elites in professional sports and entertainment, the belief that Jews inordinately are represented as agents, executives, or commissioners is considered proof of exploitation - and often ridiculously reduced to master-slave psychodramas.

Marquee professional athletes like Kyrie Irving, DeShawn Jackson, and the retired Stephen Jackson only reluctantly backed off their blatant anti-Jewish messaging.

If the athletes of the NFL and NBA are approximately 60 percent or more African American, then they are merely diverse. But if Jews in the entertainment and sport hierarchies appear more frequently than their 2.4 % demographic, then as a "cabal" they supposedly pose a threat to black livelihoods.

Black antisemitism is spreading in strange, dangerous ways.

Why? Woke orthodoxy offers cover by insisting that supposed victims can never be victimizers. A leftist-dominated media hides or contextualizes the hatred promulgated by its constituents.

Jewish-American groups remain predominantly liberal. And too often, they conveniently overlook black antisemitism, given the demands of left-wing intersectional solidarity.

So, expect the new, new antisemitism to grow more common - and more toxic.

1.4.56 House Democrats Take Aim at Pete Buttigieg Over Southwest Airlines Fiasco (2022-12-31 14:53)

Southwest Airlines' operations crashed and burned over the holidays, stranding legions of travelers as [1]thousands of flights were canceled. The blame game is in full bloom, as union officials blamed the airline [2]for not updating its software.

It's not just a Southwest problem; every airline had to cancel and reorganize its operations schedule due to the winter storm, which killed over two dozen people in Buffalo, New York. Yet, it's the level of disruption that's disconcerting. Delta, American, and United Airlines are all back to normal, having issued fewer than 40 cancellations during the storm. Delta is the king here: they had to cancel only 15 flights. Southwest was a 2,500 flight cancellation disaster. They won't be fully operational [3]until Friday, but compounding this crisis, there are now thousands of bags lost.

Isn't the transportation secretary supposed to get a handle on this fiasco? It might not have been Pete Buttigieg's fault, but this problem landed on his desk, and now he must do something—anything. The former mayor of South Bend couldn't manage to fix potholes, yet we expect him to ensure airline travel somehow can get back on track. Now, House Democrats are putting Mayor Pete in the crosshairs, as they were already not pleased with the Indiana Democrat's lackadaisical approach towards combating the alleged deceptive business practices the airline industry inflicts on its customer base (via [4]The Hill):

Rep.

Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), a leading left-wing lawmaker on Capitol Hill, took to Twitter on Thursday to question the Transportation Department's handling of the debacle that left travelers deserted and frenzied and administration officials scrambling.

"Nearly six months ago

@BernieSanders & I called for Buttigieg to implement fines & penalties on airlines for cancelling flights. Why were these recommendations not followed?" the congressman tweeted. "This mess with Southwest could have been avoided. We need bold action."

Khanna,

who co-chaired Sanders's 2020 presidential campaign, was referencing a recommendation that the Vermont senator put out in late June asking department officials to demand airlines compensate travelers for canceled or significantly delayed flights and cover their basic expenses like food and accommodations, which Khanna endorsed.

The

California liberal, who is on the House Oversight and Reform Committee, has been publicly critical of Buttigieg's role in the process and has asked him to use more power to go after what he described in an interview with The Prospect as "unfair and deceptive practices" by the airline industry.

The

Southwest episode has caused fury among passengers trying to navigate unusually long flight delays and cancellations with minimum communication from the airline.

[...]

Former

Ohio state Sen. Nina Turner, another Sanders presidential campaign co-chair and a recent House candidate, echoed Khanna's sentiments, while David Sirota, a Sanders ally and alt-left media figure, urged more accountability by mounting pressure on Buttigieg directly to take stronger action.

Pete

went on paternity leave during the early stages of the supply chain crisis, so no pity for him catching hell over this circus.

1. <https://www.nbcnews.com/now/video/southwest-airlines-says-it-plans-to-return-to-normal-operations-following-mass-cancellations-158999109539>
2. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/transportation/2022/12/28/southwest-airlines-flight-cancellations/>
3. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/29/southwest-airlines-flight-cancellations.html>
4. <https://thehill.com/policy/transportation/3791968-progressives-take-aim-at-buttigieg-over-southwest-fiasco/>

1.4.57 El Paso Worried About Public Health and Safety Amid Migrant Homeless Problem (2022-12-31 14:56)

El Paso city officials are still reeling from the thousands of illegal immigrants who have crossed into the area this month alone, resulting in hundreds of illegal immigrants sleeping on the streets in the cold and rain. With many being unable to afford bus or plane tickets, the city is stuck with them for now.

Due to the cold weather and shelters at full capacity, there is concern about public health and safety for the illegal immigrants since they are currently relying on donations from the city and residents to survive. CNN reported a few have been able to secure tents but many only have blankets.

"Now, the city of El Paso has been doing cleanups every single day, two to three times a day, to try to help with the sanitation issue, but of course, outside on the street there is no running water. The city did bring port-o-potties, you can see they're on the other side of the street. That has helped," CNN's Rosa Flores reported.

"They've added washing stations as well so that they can have water at least to Wash their hands, brush their teeth. But here's the other thing, Jessica. The city says they're also worried about RSV, COVID, the flu. And on top of all of that, there are ticks in this area, so they're very concerned about that as well," she continued.

There has been a decrease in illegal crossings into El Paso after the Texas National Guard set up barriers along popular areas along the Rio Grande, with barbed wire and shipping containers. Still, there are many who are trying to avoid apprehension from Border Patrol.

El

Paso Sector continues to see large number of migrants attempting to evade arrest throughout the sector. This is in addition to migrants surrendering themselves to agents, at the border, in downtown El Paso. This FY23, El Paso Sector has encountered 106,561 migrants.

[1]@CBP

[2]pic.twitter.com/hhOopEXxTm — Peter Jaquez (@USBPChiefEPT) [3]December 30, 2022

1. https://twitter.com/CBP?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 2. <https://t.co/hhOopEXxTm>
 3. https://twitter.com/USBPChiefEPT/status/1608839165067788289?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
-

1.4.58 China Is Trying to Hide Its Latest COVID Surge and No One Should Be Surprised (2022-12-31 15:00)

In what should be seen as an unsurprising development, the Chinese Communist Party and its public health apparatus are not being transparent about the situation unfolding in China as a new surge of COVID cases worries world leaders. Of course China isn't being forthcoming about what strains are appearing or how many cases are popping up — China has been trying to skirt blame and stymie research into COVID since it hid critical information about the virus at the beginning of the pandemic.

Despite attempts by Democrats and other leaders who seemingly took their cues from the CCP early in the pandemic to shield the communist country from scrutiny over COVID-19, it has become clear that China knew more about the virus' origins than they've said. Still, once it became impossible to deny the possibility that COVID came from a Chinese lab in Wuhan, there was little to no accountability for China's thuggish government. As a result, China sees no reason to be transparent now because they've been able to get away with...we don't even know how much.

Enter The Associated Press, with some pearl-clutching about how China "may not be sharing data now on any signs of evolving strains that could spark fresh outbreaks elsewhere." You don't say.

Taiwan, which remains under the gun of China's escalating aggression, emphasized that the rest of the world has "a very limited grasp" on information in or from China, and what the world does know is "not very accurate."

What China has said is that their recent surge in cases "is being driven by versions of the omicron variant" and has set up a "surveillance system" that the CCP says will "identify any potentially worrisome new versions of the virus,"

according to AP. Well, maybe if China hadn't lied about the first COVID strain that spread through the country and then jumped to become a global pandemic the world would trust their new variant surveillance system. Also, why wasn't there one before?

The chief epidemiologist at China's Center for Disease Control — an organization that clearly failed otherwise there wouldn't have been a global outbreak of COVID — claimed this week that "China has always reported the virus strains it has found in a timely way," but that's also a lie. "We keep nothing secret," the CCP's public health official claimed, quite unbelievably. "All work is shared with the world." Except for when it isn't.

Of course, the generally useless World Health Organization's Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus is still playing the know-nothing game and calling on China to share "more information on the severity of the outbreak" in order to "make a comprehensive risk assessment of the situation on the ground." Ghebreyesus, of course, should know by now that China isn't going to tell the WHO what it's seeing and dealing with. He's been played by (or conspired with) China before to give the CCP cover for its role in COVID's spread, and it seems he's feigning ignorance and giving China the benefit of the doubt again this time.

As AP's report noted, "China has been accused of masking the virus situation in the country before," and a previous AP investigation "found that the government sat on the release of genetic information about the virus for more than a week after

decoding it, frustrating WHO officials."

As Katie [1]reported on Wednesday, the Biden administration announced new testing requirements for individuals traveling to the U.S. from China — despite the fact that Biden smeared then-President Trump as a racist and xenophobe for placing restrictions on travel from China at the beginning of the pandemic.

1. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2022/12/28/cdc-issues-new-requirements-for-travelers-from-china-n2617650>

2023

2.1 January

2.1.1 Australia Criticized For 'Woke' and 'Progressive' NYE Coverage (2023-01-02 17:08)

Australia's ABC network is taking heat for broadcasting a woke "LGBTQ" themed coverage of New Year's Eve.

The network had drag queens performing as well as a segment on Indigenous artists.

Another segment of the night was dedicated to the country's WorldPride Festival.

"Our next few performers exemplify the word pride," co-host Jeremy Fernandez said, adding "you're an ally and WorldPride is about that too, paying tribute to the allies who stood alongside the rainbow community as well."

Local viewers slammed the shows as "woke" and a "disgrace."

Twitter users expressed their distaste with the coverage as Australia celebrated the New Year before most Americans got out of bed on Saturday morning.

"Looks like @ABCTV #SydneyNYE is trying to appeal to a younger audience this year but they don't seem to understand young people don't stay at home on #NYE watching the #ABC'," one user said.

Another said, "People think taxpayers' money is wasted on NYE fireworks. Then #ABCNYE takes that money down the toilet to a whole new level."

"I'm sure many kids are saying WTF was that. It's not that hard - just get

Bluey to sing baby shark then run TikTok vids. Save the obligatory woke snooze fest for the adults' fireworks'," one Twitter user wrote.

Australia

seemed to be catering to the progressive, rather than the average viewer, and it's clear that this woke nonsense will be carried over into 2023.

2.1.2 Total media blackout of the scariest Second Amendment story of 2022 (2023-01-02 17:10)

Stephen Gutowski at *The Reload* , one of the rare honest voices in firearms-related journalism, published some [1] bombshell revelations

two weeks ago. What was uncovered, in my opinion, is the biggest Second Amendment story of 2022. The extent and depth of what happened at the CDC is flat-out alarming.

Gun control activists know that Defensive Gun Uses (DGUs) are a thorn on their side because they make selling gun control harder. Therefore, in what can be uncharitably described as a conspiracy against the civil rights of The People, they mounted a months-long pressure campaign, using influence from a Democrat Senator and the White House, to *privately* meet with CDC officials to get higher-end DGU statistics removed from the CDC website.

One CDC official called the gun control activists "partners" in an email.

Beth Reimels, Associate Director for Policy, Partnerships, and Strategic Communication at the CDC's Division of Violence Prevention, said in one email to the three advocates on December 10th. "We will also make some edits to the content we discussed that I think will **address the concerns you and other partners** have raised."

While conspiring with gun control activists behind closed doors, the CDC at the same time did not bother reaching out to the researcher whose higher-end DGU estimates were yanked from the CDC website:

Kleck, Professor Emeritus at Florida State University's College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, stood by his research. He said the CDC did not reach out to him for his perspective before making the change. He argued the removal of the reference to his estimate was "blatant censorship" and said it was evidence of the politicization of the agency.

Not everything was recorded either:

The three advocates met with CDC Acting Principal Deputy Director Deb Houry, Associate Director of Science for the Division of Violence Prevention Tom Simon, and Associate Director for Policy, Partnerships, and Strategic Communication Beth Reimels. **The half-hour meeting was conducted over Microsoft Teams, but a transcript of the call either wasn't kept or wasn't turned over as part of the FOIA request. The CDC did not respond to questions about what was said during the meeting.**

[...]

Some of the FOIA'd emails also show officials setting up plans **to talk about potential changes "off-line."** Additionally, **18 of the 131 pages released by the CDC were completely redacted.**

There was a failed attempt at redacting a comment about the connection between activists from different organizations:

The CDC attempted to redact Mercy's comment about the tie between GVA and the gun-control group, but it only applied the redaction to one of the several copies of the exchange included in the release.

The CDC did not bother talking to the researcher whose work they yanked at the behest of the gun control activists.

Kleck, Professor Emeritus
at Florida State University's College of Criminology and Criminal
Justice, stood by his research. He said the CDC did not reach out to him
for his perspective before making the change. **He argued the
removal of the reference to his estimate was "blatant censorship" and
said it was evidence of the politicization of the agency.**

What the CDC did was indeed
censorship, but there's more censorship at play here. And that's the
mainstream media's complete and total blackout of this story. I have
been following the news just about daily to see who does and doesn't
cover this story. So far, to the best of my knowledge, the only coverage
from a large media organization has come from Fox News, who [2] reported on the collusion
between the CDC and gun control activists

, and then followed up with [3] another story on some Republicans in Congress demanding that
the CDC reinstate the statistics

. Other than these stories, there's minor coverage at [4] The Daily Caller

, [5] Real Clear Politics

, and the New York Post which reports it as the [6] "grumbling" of a researcher

.

This is [7] not the first time that the CDC has been up to no good

, but that an agency that was [8] founded to combat malaria

has been repurposed to attack the very rights of the people who created
it with their hard-earned money and vested it with its powers is
infuriating to say the least.

The Fourth Estate is supposed to keep an eye on things like this. [9] Eternal vigilance is the
price of Liberty

, and when the mainstream media abdicates its duty, liberty is imperiled.

1. <https://thereload.com/emails-cdc-removed-defensive-gun-use-stats-after-gun-control-advocates-pressured-officials-in-private-meeting/>
 2. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/cdc-removed-stats-defensive-gun-use-pressure-gun-control-activists-report>
 3. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/republicans-push-cdc-reinstate-defensive-gun-use-data-gun-control-activists-removed-site>
 4. <https://dailycaller.com/2022/12/15/editor-daily-rundown-henry-cuellar-border-crisis-biden/>
 5. https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2022/12/21/cdc_funding_decisions_based_largely_on_politics_not_science_148631.html
 6. <https://nypost.com/2022/12/21/twitters-pentagon-papers-cdc-puts-politics-above-science-and-other-commentary/>
 7. <https://bearingarms.com/tomknighton/2018/04/23/cdc-allegedly-hid-data-supporting-pro-gun-claims-n32338>
 8. https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/about/history/history_cdc.html
 9. <https://www.monticello.org/research-education/thomas-jefferson-encyclopedia/eternal-vigilance-price-liberty-spurious-quotation/>
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2.1.3 New York Will No Longer Prosecute Children Under 12 for Most Crimes (2023-01-02 17:12)

Starting this month, children under 12 years old in New York state will no longer face arrest or prosecution for most crimes.

Previously, children in the state between the ages of seven and 18 who committed a crime were charged as a juvenile delinquent. Now, because of a [1]bill signed by Democrat Gov. Kathy Hochul, children under the age of 12 who commit a crime will be referred to their local social services department for treatment rather than going through the court system, according to Buffalo-based outlet [2]WIVB.

Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti told the outlet that the new policy is “another weakening, watering down of our criminal justice system.”

“Speaking to our [social services] commissioner here, she’s taking it very seriously,” Filicetti said, adding that the commissioner “reached out to us to set up a system with all the police agencies, but you can’t get around the fact that this is now an additional duty being placed on social services.”

Reportedly, Filicetti said that the programs social services provide are voluntary, so if a child who commits a crime does not want to participate, they

would not have to. In 2019, approximately 800 children under age 12 were arrested in the state.

New York-based attorney Barry

Covert told WIVB that the new policy would keep children from going through the court system for committing a “low-level crime.”

“[I’ll]

give an example of petit larceny, simple trespassing – low-level offenses. You don’t want to traumatize those individuals and handcuff them and put them into the court system and bring them into jail,” Covert said. He noted that the only exception to the policy is homicide, but not other violent crimes.

“I suspect, just like

the bail reform was redone after about two years, we may see that in the future here, because there probably should be more carve-outs,” Covert said. “There seem to be some clear-cut examples that will probably play out in the future, unfortunately, and the police will be handcuffed and the court system will be handcuffed and we might regret that the carve-out is so narrow that it’s only homicide offenses.”

New York State Sen. Jamaal Bailey, a Democrat, [3]said

“when you criminalize young folks at an earlier age, they’re subjected to much more trauma,” adding that children “can only bear so much” after getting through the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the bill

was signed in 2022, State. Sen. Jeremy Cooney, a Democrat, told ABC-affiliated outlet WHAM that the legislation “prevents children from

becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system,” adding that “it’s about age-appropriate responses designed to support children in need of help.”

Jim VanBrederode, a former police chief in Gates, New York, told the outlet that children who commit crimes should be held accountable and that the new policy is “risky.”

“Over my 37-year career, I have personally witnessed and in my jurisdiction, kids getting younger and younger committing violent acts,” VanBrederode said. “And to just make this black and white and set the age at 12 is a risky thing to do.”

1. https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S04051&term=2021&Summary=Y&Text=Y
2. <https://www.wivb.com/news/local-news/nys-no-longer-prosecuting-children-under-12-in-2023/>
3. <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/in-the-news/jamaal-t-bailey/ny-will-no-longer-prosecute-children-under-age-12>

2.1.4 Learning Nothing from History (2023-01-02 17:15)

I was a historian by trade for much of my career, and believe me, it can be a very depressing profession. Especially when you see the country you love following the same path so many other nations have trod into bankruptcy, depravity, and vulnerability. And America today is a classic case of decline and eventual fall. Textbook. And so few people see it. Very sad and depressing.

Here is one historical example among countless, and limited space necessitates brevity.

Ancient Crete, in the 2nd and 1st millennia B.C., had a thriving and very advanced culture (Minoan) that lasted a few centuries. But, as with all cultures, ancient and modern, there was the eventual descent. Historian Will Durant provides a piercing analysis of what happened to that once great civilization: “Perhaps there, too, as in most declining cultures, population control went too far and reproduction was left to the failures. Perhaps as wealth and luxury increased, the pursuit of physical pleasure sapped the vitality of the race and weakened its will to live or defend itself. A nation is born stoic and dies epicurean.” (Will Durant, *The Life of Greece*) Two points: “reproduction was left to the failures,” and the “pursuit of physical pleasure.” Such problems will implode any society and have done so innumerable times. Some analysis and application.

Point One. Every society in human history has had its proportion of riffraff, of human scum, the dregs of the species, who are uncivilizable and irredeemable. They are just garbage. I’m sorry, I hate to say that, I know it sounds cruel, but it’s simply the truth. As George Gilder wrote, “If the truth is known, all too many of them [the uncouth barbarians] are entirely unsuited for civilized life. Every society must figure out ways to bring them into the disciplines and duties of citizenship.” These bottom-feeders must either be civilized (it happens in a few cases) or they need to be isolated, ostracized, in effect, quarantined, like a disease, or they will reproduce and spread like rats, gangrene infecting the rest of the society and dragging it down closer and closer to their depraved level. Society must be ruled by excellence, or it will

be ruled from a sewer.

The LAST thing a social order should do is invite them into the country and exalt and celebrate them, as America is now doing. It's not just the open borders and the myriads of—what?—that are coming in. If the lowest elements of society dominate population growth, and their offspring are not properly civilized and acculturated, they will infest the entire body politic, little by little, like cancer, until death occurs. As in ancient Crete. And Rome. Oh, those two places still exist, of course, but not, and never again, with the glory and magnificence that caused them to ADVANCE humanity, not retard it. America is far from disappearing and ceasing to be. It will simply become another third-rate cesspool, with dangerous animals wandering every street, where people aimlessly subsist and where world leaders will shift to another country more willing and able to accept it. That may be good, but it may not be; it depends on which country rises to the top of the food chain. The likeliest possibility at the moment will be a nightmare for mankind.

Point Two. As crucially, Durant said, "as wealth and luxury increased, the pursuit of physical pleasure sapped the vitality of the race and weakened its will to live or defend itself." A nation rises from tyranny through self-control, self-sacrifice, and character. It becomes free. It gets wealthy. Then, it wants to enjoy that wealth. The decline begins because such a society produces an effeminate culture that, because it doesn't want to lose its affluence, becomes too timid and fractured to defend itself. The people live only for self-gratification, and they lose all the virtues that produced virility and advancement in the first place. Quit eating vegetables and exercising, sit in front of the TV all evening wasting your mind, and you'll become fat, lazy, and stupid. And unable to defend yourself against a stronger foe. What will happen to a society of such lice? It doesn't take a historical genius to answer that.

American Leftists especially—and too many supposed "conservatives" nowadays—glorify and celebrate immorality, debauchery, and the utterly debased scum that is dragging America into a slime pit. At best, we wring our hands, "What can we do?" We can't do anything, because America has already gone too far in that direction. Just for one example among many, how do we turn around the hideous perversity of drag queens and their decadent amusements? We glorified the lifestyle they arise from, and now we have no choice but to condone every monstrosity and logical consequence that lifestyle produces. It is nothing but a nation gone into moral, and mortal, decline. And how many see it?

Durant's last point is brilliant beyond description: "A nation is born stoic and dies epicurean." While Stoicism and Epicureanism are more complex than a simple statement can explain, his basic idea is sound. A "stoic" is a person (nation) who can bear hardship and pain, and overcome obstacles without complaint. Stoics taught that virtue is the highest good, is based on knowledge and that the wise live in harmony with nature, Divine Reason, and excellence. An Epicurean (as it has come to be defined) is devoted to the pursuit of sensual pleasure and luxurious living. Such a misanthrope cares nothing for the common good or virtuous living. And obviously, cannot and will not elevate any society to the heights of moral excellence and self-discipline necessary for that society's defense, long-term survival, and improvement. A nation is born stoic, dies epicurean. And it's obvious why.

Now, you tell me: which describes America today, Stoicism or Epicureanism? And worse yet, how many understand? Or care?

2.1.5 Dangerous Illinois Criminal Justice Law Goes Into Effect New Years Day (2023-01-02 17:17)

Chicago saw nearly 600 homicides in 2022, five times higher than New York City and 2.5 times higher than Los Angeles.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D-III) have repeatedly pushed back on criticism that highlights their failed crime policies.

However, beginning January 1, they will no longer be able to escape the reality that a new law will bring to the state.

The state's Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity-Today (Safe-T) Act will pretty much end cashless bail.

It will also limit when defendants can be deemed flight risks and allow defendants under electronic monitoring to leave home for 48 hours before they can be charged with escape.

Meaning criminals can be walking around the state for two days before police officers are called to go looking for them.

The law will also drop trespassing from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class B misdemeanor. So officers will no longer be able to arrest non-violent trespassers and instead only issue them a citation.

Sounds safe for the people of Illinois.

A class-action lawsuit, which dozens of counties across the state signed, argued that the pre-trial release and bail reforms in the SAFE-T act are unconstitutional.

"Today's ruling affirms that we are still a government of the people and that the Constitutional protections afforded to the citizens of Illinois - most importantly the right to exercise our voice with our vote - are inalienable," Kankakee County State Attorney Jim Rowe, one of the lead plaintiffs in the suit, said in a statement.

As the state appeals the decision, a higher court in Illinois eliminated cash bail, however, the rest of the bill remains in effect.

In his 33-page opinion, Judge Thomas Cunningham cited the need for a separation of powers, saying "...the appropriateness of bail rests with the authority of the court and may not be determined by legislative fiat."

The ruling means the pre-trial release and bail reforms spelled out in the law will not take effect in those counties come the first of the year. The portion of the law would have allowed judges to decide if a defendant does not pose a public safety risk, they could be released without posting cash bail.

Orland Park Mayor Keith Pekau told Fox News that this is the most dangerous law he has ever seen.

2.1.6 What? (2023-01-07 14:13)

It's almost unanimous. Not totally, but close enough. Nearly everyone, Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives, dogs, and cats, is vehemently condemning 20 or so Republicans who are holding back the election of a new Speaker of the House. "Terrorists," they have been labeled, among other things. As if the whole world is going to end if it takes a week to put somebody at the head of the House of Representatives.

Has everybody gone mad? Was Rome built in a day after all? You'd think it was, given that this Speaker election must happen RIGHT NOW, or the country will crumble.

I expect the Democrats and their media cohorts to condemn everything Republicans do; that politics. But Republicans are joining them, and that is bad news indeed. Can we have a little calm, please? My thoughts:

1. The 20 House Republicans are doing exactly what is supposed to be done in a democratic republic!! Please let me repeat that. The 20 House Republicans are doing exactly what is supposed to be done in a democratic republic!! The whole idea behind our system is debate, argument, give and take, (supposedly) honorable people coming together to work out solutions that are best for the citizens they serve. That's the theory, and it used to work fairly well. And that is exactly what some Republicans are doing. The Democrats, who no longer care what democracy is, surely think these Republicans are engaged in fascism, but in truth, this debate the GOP is having is very healthy for the country; exactly what is supposed to happen to make sure the best things are done and the best people serve. Congress rarely does that anymore, and as a result, THAT is what is threatening democracy.

2. Is McCarthy the best choice or not? I don't know all that much about Kevin McCarthy, having never researched his voting record, etc. Until this Speaker thing broke out, I always thought he was a pretty good guy. But what I read now is that many die-hard conservative Republicans think he is a RINO, and in the absence of any evidence I can give to the contrary, I can't argue with them. But I'd like to know, and the country needs to know.

Isn't that what our elected leaders should do, help people like me understand what is best by thrashing out these matters in discussion, debate, and argument? How will we ever know if Kevin McCarthy is the best choice if nobody is there to challenge him AND MAKE HIM PROVE THAT HE IS?? Am I just required to take Dan Crenshaw's word that McCarthy should be elected and that every Republican who opposes him is a "terrorist"? Excuse me, Congressman Crenshaw, if I prefer to have evidence and think for myself. Will a few days of discussion, debate, and negotiation destroy America? Who do these people think they are? More frightening, who do they think WE are?

3. Democrats are nothing but robots. When was the last time any Democrat went against anything their party did? We might briefly remember Joe Manchin, and AOC voted against the

omnibus because it wasn't totalitarian enough for her. Manchin, of course, eventually wimped out and caved, and everybody knows AOC is insane. Again, I ask, when does the Democratic Party ever truly practice democracy?

And this scares me because now it is supposed to be the model for both parties. Too many Republicans are willing to go along with this kind of fascist approach—you accept what we say, everybody toe the line, quit contradicting or questioning us, you are nothing but a deplorable peasant. We know that is what the Democratic Party thinks. But now, is the Republican Party accepting that paradigm, too? Thank God for Matt Gaetz and his freedom caucus that is demanding some answers and protections for the American people.

The Democratic Party is gone; we all can see that. That party seldom has anyone break ranks anymore on important matters. They are robots. They do what their leadership tells them, and currently, that message is “100 % against McCarthy.” The Democratic Party, perhaps next to the Chinese Communist Party and Zelensky's Ukraine, is the most un-democratic, pro-totalitarian political institution in the world. Which is why they love the CCP and Zelensky so much. And Mitch McConnell and too much of the Republican Party are more than willing to follow that archetype. Let the Washington establishment decide everything. This would indeed be the end of democracy.

4. There will be a new Speaker soon. I don't know who it will be and have no inside knowledge or input. But if that decision takes a few more days of doing what is supposed to be done in a democratic republic, then that's fine with me. If the hearings on Hunter Biden don't start tomorrow, I don't think America will come crashing down the day after tomorrow. I will have much more confidence in whoever the new Speaker is now that some courageous, bold, America-loving Republicans have stood up and DEMANDED answers and negotiations. The Speaker of the House is third in line for the Presidency. It is an incredibly important position that demands thorough investigation and proper vetting. The Democrats, obviously, never do that and never will because they gave up democracy long ago. For America's sake, it is imperative that the Republican Party not follow suit.

If the Republicans follow Mitch McConnell and the Democrats, then what few vestiges we have left of democratic republicanism will vanish. Probably forever.

Keep the fire stoked, Matt, until you get what we need. Let the belly-achers belly-ache.

2.1.7 DeSantis Announces Plan to Take Over Disney's Land (2023-01-07 14:14)

The state of Florida announced a plan to take control of woke Walt Disney's land once and for all.

The legislature would replace Disneyland's special self-governing power with a state-run board, according to a notice posted on the website of

Osceola County, which is home to part of Disney World.

Sources from Gov. Ron DeSantis' (R-Fla) office said that his intention with the legislature is to mandate members of the board to be appointed by the governor.

DeSantis's communication director, Taryn Fenske, told Fox News that the corporate kingdom has come to an end.

"Under the proposed legislation, Disney will no longer control its government, will live under the same laws as everyone else, will be responsible for their outstanding debts, and will pay their fair share of taxes," Fenske said.

She added that it will ensure that Orange County cannot raise taxes on its residents and make sure that the county pays up to \$700 million in unsecured debt that has been accumulated by Disney's special jurisdiction, known as the Reedy Creek District.

"The governor is doing exactly what he said he would," DeSantis' former chief of staff, Adrian Lukis said, adding "Disney can no longer have its own government and own taxing authority, and Disney, not taxpayers, will have to be responsible for any financial consequences."

Lukis acknowledged that this may financially hurt Disney, but suggested that businesses in the state will be proud DeSantis stood his ground.

“I expect businesses throughout the state will be proud of their governor for making it clear that he doesn’t care who you are, or how politically connected you may be. No one gets special treatment in Florida,” Lukis told Fox News.

In 2022, DeSantis signed a law terminating Disney’s special governing power after the woke corporation opposed the governor’s Parental Rights in Education bill.

DeSantis’s team vowed that everyone in Florida will be treated equally and nothing will fall on hard-working taxpayers.

2.1.8 McCarthy Wins the 15-Round Bout, but Matt Gaetz Is the Real Winner (2023-01-07 14:17)

Usually when a writer writes, “it was like a 15-round fight,” they’re engaging in hyperbole—but as RedState’s [1]Nick Arama reported, Friday night’s vote for Speaker of the House did indeed go 15 rounds before Kevin McCarthy finally won after facing a rebellion from 20 Republicans who initially refused to vote for him. It was the longest speaker battle [2]since 1853.

California’s McCarthy finally won the speakership, but Florida congressman Matt Gaetz may have won the war. He was the leader of the pack of holdouts, along with Colorado’s Lauren Boebert and Arizona’s Andy Biggs, and for a brief moment in time, they held the future one of the three branches of government in their hands. All eyes looked to them as their yay or nay could change the course of the future.

In fact, the moment was so tense that a fight almost broke out when Mike Rogers of Alabama seemed to lose his cool, as [3]Arama reported.

It was after the 14th vote that Gaetz apparently had a change of heart, approaching McCarthy and saying something which seemed to invigorate the candidate who immediately started animatedly advocating other members to vote “no” on adjourning for the night.

The subsequent vote nuked the motion to adjourn, and after 14 failures, McCarthy finally inched across the finish line with a vote of 216-212 (the 212 going to NY Democrat Hakeem Jeffries) with five voting present, including Boebert and Gaetz.

He is now the Speaker of the House.

However, his powers have been severely compromised, as he was forced to make concession after concession to get the votes of his peers. Who forced these concessions? Gaetz and the Freedom Caucus, which includes Andy Biggs, AZ, Dan Bishop, NC, Lauren Boebert, CO, Michael Cloud, TX, Andrew Clyde, GA, Matt Gaetz, FL, Bob Good, VA, Paul Gosar, AZ, Andy Harris, MD, Mary Miller, IL, Ralph Norman, SC, Scott Perry, PA, Matt Rosendale, MT, Chip Roy, TX, Byron Donalds, FL, Josh Brecheen, OK, Eli Crane, AZ, Andy Ogles, TN, Anna Paulina Luna, FL, and Keith Self, TX..

Here is a list of the concessions Gaetz made McCarthy agree to [4]pic.twitter.com/8avY10pyBX

— Electric Beard (@ElectricBeard_) [5]January 7, 2023

It was an action-packed night on C-SPAN, as Nick Arama reported, explaining how the vote to adjourn was pulled back from the brink:

Gaetz and McCarthy seem to have come to some sort of agreement. Gaetz, who had voted to adjourn, pulled that back and voted “no,” so they could continue the vote. It was a sign McCarthy didn’t need more time to whip votes.

So then, in the 15th vote, all of the six holdouts then voted “present,” lowering the count needed to win, securing the vote for McCarthy. Those six were Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Rep. Bob Good (R-VA), Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO), Rep. Eli Crane (R-AZ), and Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT)

You may or may not like Matt Gaetz, Lauren Boebert, and the Freedom Caucus, but one thing is for sure: they flexed their muscles this week, and they are going to be a force to be reckoned with.

1. <https://redstate.com/nick-arama/2023/01/07/breaking-15th-vote-finally-decides-kevin-mccarthy-as-speaker-of-the-house-n684835>
2. <https://history.house.gov/Historical-Highlights/1851-1900/The-longest-and-most-contentious-Speaker-election-in-its-history/>
3. <https://redstate.com/nick-arama/2023/01/06/watch-wild-scene-as-member-has-to-be-restrained-from-going-after-gaetz-n684812>
4. <https://t.co/8avY10pyBX>
5. https://twitter.com/ElectricBeard_/status/1611594284884529154?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

2.1.9 Gov. Abbott Destroys Biden In Scathing Remarks Over the Border (2023-01-07 14:19)

exas Governor Greg Abbott (R-TX) called out President Joe Biden’s severely delayed response to the border crisis.

Abbott vented his frustration with the administration saying it’s “about time” Biden makes a trip down to the southern border to see the “chaos” that he has created.

The Texas governor’s comments come after Biden announced that he will be visiting the border this weekend for the first time since taking office two years ago.

"I think what his proposal is going to do is to entice even more people to come here illegally," Abbott cautioned, adding "Biden talked about the Republicans having no plan. Republicans do have the plan to secure the border. Biden has no plan to secure the border. Americans are angry and frustrated. It's time for Biden to lay out details about how he will stop illegal immigrants coming across our border."

Abbott argued against Biden's remarks after the president blamed Republicans for the border crisis getting out of hand and not taking the issue ' seriously enough."

The governor warned that Biden was "violating existing federal law," comparing Biden's border policies to former President Trump's.

Abbott cited numbers proving that under the Trump Administration, the U.S. saw the lowest amount of border crossings in decades, while it only took a year for Biden to dismantle that, having the most illegal border crossings in modern history.

"What Biden is saying out right now is not going to reduce that," Abbott said, adding "his catch and release program is not enforcing laws that require them to detain people who've come across the border illegally. And he's just letting them loose. And that is promoting and enticing more people to come to our country illegally."

The Texas governor, who made headlines last year for shipping illegal migrants to Democrat-run cities, also called out Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, claiming that he is "lying to Americans."

“They’re not fooling anybody,” Abbott said. “That border is open because of the Biden administration. We’ve had about as many people cross the border illegally in the past year alone as we have residents of Houston, Texas.”

Abbott suggested that the only reason the Biden Administration is doing something *now* about the border is that the majority of Americans disagree with his policies.

“There is a reason why he’s trying to step up now. That’s because most Americans disagree with Joe Biden’s open border policies, and they lay the fault directly at Joe Biden’s feet,” Abbott said.

There have been at least five million illegal migrants who have entered the U.S. through the southern border since Biden took office. Drug and sex traffickers, as well as fentanyl, is at an all-time high in the country because Biden refuses to close the borders.

2.1.10 Blame the Chamber, Not Republican Leadership, for Woke Turn (2023-01-11 16:11)

Ever since Congress came back into session, much of the focus in Republican circles has centered on whether Kevin McCarthy and other top party officials should remain in their leadership positions this year.

The conservative grassroots have a right to be angry. They have a right to feel that their voice and concerns haven’t been met or heard, and no one can fault them for demanding change. However, the root of the Republican Party’s problems is not in the halls of Congress; it is on the frontlines of the advocacy campaigns and lobbying fights that have caused Kevin McCarthy and Mitch McConnell’s members to fall out of line.

At the end of the day, McCarthy and McConnell are just two men. They need consensus to move bills. That was far easier to find years ago before wokeness infiltrated the American economy, but it’s much harder to find now when this radically extreme worldview has destroyed the very institutions that Congress once relied on to understand the day’s top impediments to free enterprise and free markets.

Take, for example, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which, despite endorsing Biden appointees, has yet to even congratulate McCarthy on his speakership. This group, which was once Congress's most allied and trusted group when it came to crafting pro-growth policies, is holding a State of American Business forum this Thursday, but I'm willing to bet that its top-down, disconnected stands for ESG policies and massive spending increases that have helped topple the American economy won't be a topic of discussion. As a result, conservative members feel they can no longer trust the Chamber, and Republicans lost a significant difference-maker in the public policy arena.

Recognizing how negatively the Chamber's woke turn has affected his ability to gain consensus on critical issues (and his members' ability to understand the concerns of American businesses), McCarthy announced that he will no longer accept meetings from the group, which he called on to make leadership changes.

McCarthy is right — America needs the Chamber to return to its influential mover-and-shaker past. But that raises the question: how did the Chamber reach this rock bottom point, and who brought it here?

The group's problems began with Tom Donohue, its chief executive officer from 1997 to 2019. For years, Donohue's tenure was strong, but it ended with a pro-ESG, pro-big spending bill whimper. In Donohue's final years, the Chamber refused to support the repeal of Obamacare, fought conservatives over their efforts to reform the corporate welfare Export-Import Bank, and even pushed the inane Common Core education scheme advanced by Bill Gates. It even endorsed 23 freshmen Democrats, all of whom endorsed Big Labor efforts to repeal state Right to Work laws and eliminate independent contracting nationwide. This unprecedented move helped secure Nancy Pelosi's role as Speaker and saddled the business community with more regulations and more taxes.

Many believe Donohue aged out and hung on past his effective date; nevertheless, the reality is that he is still effectively pulling the Chamber's strings as the group's new leader — Suzanne Clark, his former executive assistant — is still carrying on his woke legacy.

Clark has not only continued the Chamber's downward spiral; she's accelerated it. Clark's Chamber has held hands with the AFL-CIO by endorsing a big spending transportation bill chock-full of costly giveaways to Big Labor and which promoted the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) standards that have dried out investments in the American economy's key driver — the energy industry. Clark doubling down on the Donohue agenda cemented the Chamber's transformation from a leading difference maker in free-market politics to an ignored group that advocates for new, woke policies that are counterproductive to the average business' interests.

The lengths that the Chamber has gone to go woke has destroyed the group's relationship with its local business partners. It caused a huge rift, with some local chambers leaving the national Chamber altogether. And over the years, this rift has gotten worse, not better. Members of Congress have taken note, which is why this group no longer has any political influence.

But we need it to have influence. Without one strong, central, reliable voice to relay the pain points of consumers and businesses on Main Street — members have struggled to introduce the right bills and take the right votes, and the American people have suffered as a result.

This needs to change, and soon. The Republican Party — the party of free enterprise — now controls the House of Representatives, and the time for genuine market reforms has never looked riper.

Dear sane Chamber leaders that are reading this column, let's give

Kevin McCarthy what he wants. Let's do what's needed to oust the Chamber's current problem executives and restore this group to its former glory so that, over the next 12 months, the economy can get bigger, better, and more prosperous under this new Congress. It's what the American people need and deserve.

2.1.11 Corrupt Mexico's President Thanks Biden for Not Building Any Border Wall (2023-01-11 16:12)

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador thanked President Joe Biden for not building any more border wall between the countries during the trilateral press conference in Mexico City on Tuesday.

"You, President Biden, you are the first president of the United States in a very long time that has not built, not even one meter of wall, and that we thank you for that, sir," he said.

1
2
3
4

Mexican President Obrador to Joe Biden:

"You, President Biden, you are the first president of the United States in a very long time that has not built, not even one meter of wall, and that we thank you for that, sir."
pic.twitter.com/NtzMiSwD8m

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) January 10, 2023

Biden campaigned on not building any more of the border wall system that was being built by the Trump administration at the time. On day one of entering office, Biden ordered a halt on construction, resulting in gaps and many miles of unfinished projects at the U.S.-Mexico border. To this day, wall material is still laying on the ground, rotting away in the elements.

The only exception to that is in the Yuma Sector, where several gaps in the border wall system has made it easier for illegal immigrants to enter the United States. On Friday, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced the construction to fill the gaps will start shortly:

1

2

3

CBP is scheduled to begin mobilizing for construction next week and the project is anticipated for completion in Summer 2023. This project will be funded with DHS's Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations and will address operational impacts, as well as immediate life and safety risks.

The gap closures will tie into already existing infrastructure in the area. The U.S. Border Patrol has a tremendous partnership with the State of Arizona and will continue to work collaboratively to expand its deployments of infrastructure, technology, and personnel.

Most of the illegal crossings occur where the border wall stops and the Cocopah Reservation begins. The reservation sits next to the U.S.-Mexico border for a few miles and only has the Normandy-style barriers that are designed to stop vehicles from illegally crossing, but people on foot are easily able to get around such barriers.

2.1.12 Democrats Partner With Mexican Cartels: A Deal With the Devil (2023-01-11 16:13)

The Mexican drug cartels are killing off our friends and family members with fentanyl manufactured in superlabs south of the border and smuggled into the U.S., but President Joe Biden couldn't care less.

Biden is in Mexico claiming he's seeking the Mexican government's help to stop the carnage. Truth is, the trip is a dog and pony show. Photo-ops, empty promises and such will be followed by rapid backsliding.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador lacks both the will and the muscle to tackle the cartels, which have paramilitary forces that outgun the Mexican police and control swaths of territory.

Biden, for his part, has no intention of securing the southern border — the only measure that actually would stop the flow of killer drugs into our towns and schools.

Biden wants migrants to continue illegally entering by the millions, even though the onslaught is diverting Border Patrol agents from detecting fentanyl smugglers. Border Patrol agents are being pulled from drug interdiction and other law enforcement duties to process and care for migrants. The Democrats are willing to pay that price.

In order to swell the nation with new immigrants, Democrats are handing America over to the cartels. The cartels, which profit by trafficking in human beings as well as drugs, are double winners.

Who are the losers? American families losing their loved ones to fentanyl overdoses. Over 70,000 Americans are dying yearly from fentanyl-laced drugs, including roughly 30,000 young people aged 15 to 34. Fentanyl is invading our high schools and middle schools, sometimes killing kids who are trying drugs for the first time.

The Biden administration must know that asking Lopez Obrador to battle the cartels is a fool's errand. Since taking office in 2018, Lopez Obrador, a leftist, has pledged to end the war on drugs, not prosecute it. His motto is "abrazos no balazos," which means "hugs not bullets." Fighting the cartels is not on his agenda.

Last week, Mexico arrested Ovidio Guzman, leader of the one of the biggest cartels and son of kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman. The arrest was likely an empty diplomatic gesture because of Biden’s impending arrival, not a sign of change, suggests Derek Maltz, a former Drug Enforcement Administration official.

Lopez Obrador hasn’t lifted a finger to go after the fentanyl superlabs or hand over numerous high-level cartel criminals under indictment in the U.S., explains Maltz, who headed DEA’s Special Operations. Commenting on Ovidio’s arrest, Maltz adds that without “sustained attacks against the cartel leadership and the production labs, it’s not going to make a difference. Meanwhile we have 9,000 Americans dying every month.”

To stop the deaths, the U.S. Border Patrol needs to intercept the fentanyl as it’s being smuggled, usually in cars and trucks or through tunnels. Sadly, catching those smugglers is not a Democratic Party priority.

The Democrats’ omnibus budget bill, signed by Biden two weeks ago, prohibits additional money for Customs and Border Protection from being used for technology or manpower to secure the border. Instead, the budget says the money must be used to pay charities that provide housing and services for migrants, as well as paying for airline and bus tickets for migrants to reach their chosen U.S. destination. Democrats are turning Customs and Border Protection into a concierge travel service.

The Border Patrol Union said the Biden administration wants more money “to process more people so they can release more people.”

That has been Biden's objective since the start. It's why he suspended the Remain in Mexico policy and halted construction on the border wall on his first day in office. And why he is fighting in the Supreme Court to toss Title 42 in order to keep more migrants in the country illegally.

The cartels serve the Democratic Party's goal of flooding the nation with migrants. Cartels are essentially the Democratic Party's business partners. But it's a deal with the devil. These same cartels operate distribution hubs in cities and towns across the U.S., bringing in lethal drugs and criminals to sell them. It's time we fight back. Asking Mexico for help is a charade.

2.1.13 Donald Trump's Accomplishments as President, Part One (2023-01-11 16:14)

I have been repeatedly told, as I'm sure you have, that Donald Trump "was the worst President the United States has ever had." Except for his "racism," "Nazism," "mean tweets," and "all the stupid things he said and did," I have never been told what specific accomplishments of his administration these folks don't like. Granted, maybe the man is arrogant and narcissistic, but he isn't the only such person who ever occupied the White House. Maybe he said some stupid things; I wonder how many human beings have never done the same. But only Donald Trump is guilty. Fairness and justice are virtues the Left is far removed from.

Mr. Trump, like all of us, including his liberal detractors, isn't close to perfection. I didn't agree with his every policy, action, word, or deed, but what I want to do in three articles is look at his record: what did his administration accomplish for the United States. Frankly, I will mention only bare essentials; the total list is very, very long, and at the end of this review, I will refer the reader to a website where a full list can be obtained and post the entire record on my personal blog.

The reader can decide, for himself/herself, if these actions of the Trump administration were good for America. I will, of course, comment

along the way, but only briefly.

1. Unemployment and economic growth.

- Unemployment rates for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and those without a high school diploma all reached record lows.

- Unemployment for women hit its lowest rate in nearly 70 years.

- Lifted nearly 7 million people off food stamps.

- Poverty rates for African Americans and Hispanic Americans reached record lows.

- Income inequality fell for two straight years, and by the largest amount in over a decade.

- The bottom 50 percent of American households saw a 40 percent increase in net worth.

- Wages rose fastest for low-income and blue-collar workers – a 16 percent pay increase.

- African American homeownership increased from 41.7 percent to 46.4 percent.

Trump, of course, is a “racist” and “sexist” to liberals; it is one of their prime charges against him, with absolutely no proof. It is hard to understand, though, why a man who hates minorities and women so much would institute policies that would be so beneficial to them.

1. Tax Relief

- Strengthened America’s rural economy by investing over \$1.3 billion through the Agriculture Department’s ReConnect Program to bring high-speed broadband infrastructure to rural America.

- More than 6 million American workers received wage increases, bonuses, and increased benefits thanks to the tax cuts.

- A typical family of four earning \$75,000 received an income tax cut of more than \$2,000 – slashing their tax bill in half.

- Doubled the standard deduction – making the first \$24,000 earned by a married couple completely tax-free.

- Doubled the child tax credit.

- Since the passage of tax cuts, the share of total wealth held by the bottom half of households has increased, while the share held by the top 1 percent has decreased.

- Over \$1.5 trillion was repatriated into the United States from overseas.

- Created nearly 9,000 Opportunity Zones where capital gains on long-term investments are taxed at zero.

Americans were able to keep more of the money they earned. Only a Marxist (yes, Democrat) would object to that.

1. Regulations

- Instead of 2-for-1, Trump eliminated 8 old regulations for every 1 new regulation adopted.

- Provided the average American household an extra \$3,100 every year.

- Removed nearly 25,000 pages from the Federal Register – more than any other president. The previous administration added over 16,000 pages.

Mr. Trump was very pro-business, something else that is anathema to the Left. Yet, the removal of onerous, needless regulations, not only helped small business owners, but cheapened costs and provided more money for average Americans.

1. Trade

- Immediately withdrew from the job-killing Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).
- Ended the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and replaced it with the brand new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).
- The USMCA contains powerful new protections for American manufacturers, auto-makers, farmers, dairy producers, and workers.
- Negotiated another deal with Japan to boost \$40 billion worth of digital trade.

- China agreed to purchase an additional \$200 billion worth of United States exports and opened market access for over 4,000 American facilities to exports while all tariffs remained in effect.
- Imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions worth of Chinese goods to protect American jobs and stop China’s abuses under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 and Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.
- Achieved a mutual agreement with the European Union (EU) that addresses unfair trade practices and increases duty-free exports by 180 percent to \$420 million.
- Successfully negotiated more than 50 agreements with countries around the world to increase foreign market access and boost exports of American agriculture products, supporting more than 1 million American jobs.

Economics is not something most Americans understand very well, thus the benefits of the above are not easily understood, or quickly perceived or felt, by most. Yet, the list is clear enough to make the Left angry. Mr. Trump negotiated trade deals that benefitted the United States. He still had much to do in that regard, but he was denied another four years in which to do it. Obviously, the country has suffered greatly the last two years because of that.

2.1.14 Gallup: Nation Is Split on Whether Companies Should Take a Stance on Political or Social Issues (2023-01-11 16:16)

According to the [1]Gallup and Bentley University poll, 75 % of those who identify as Democrats believe companies “should

take a public stance on current events,” while just 40 % of independents and 18 % of Republicans agree.

As might be expected, the age of the respondent told the story. Fifty-nine percent of those aged 18 to 29 think companies should be active on social issues, compared with 51 % of those aged 30 to 44, 41 % of those aged 45 to 59, and 43 % of those aged 60 and older.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans and independents to feel businesses should publicly share their beliefs about social and cultural issues — 75 % of Democrats say they should, compared with 40 % of independents and 18 % of Republicans.

Asian adults and Black adults are the most likely of all racial/ethnic groups to believe businesses should take a public stance on political and social issues. About three-quarters of each group (74 % and 72 %, respectively) say businesses should take a public stance, compared with 49 % of Hispanic adults and 41 % of White adults.

Women (52 %) are somewhat more likely than men (43 %) to prefer that businesses take a public stance on issues.

ng people have been at the forefront of forcing their company to take a stand on social or political issues — always a radical left stand. In fact, the politics of younger workers is hyperpartisan and wildly

titled toward Democrats.

Many companies have struggled to determine if, and how, they should address significant social and cultural issues. In the past few years, these have included the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and social injustice following the death of George Floyd, and changing legal rulings on women's reproductive rights. Many employees have called for their employers to issue internal and external statements describing their values related to these events. And while some employers have made such statements internally and publicly, others have worried that taking public positions on issues of cultural relevance could negatively impact their brand with customers and with current and future employees. Others have posited that such statements are inconsistent with their role as a business.

Americans are divided on this issue, with Democrats, younger adults and racial/ethnic minorities most likely to believe businesses should take a public stand on important issues.

The Walt Disney Company paid a stiff price for going woke in Florida when they accepted the false narrative about the Parental Rights in Education Act and criticized it after some of their younger employees walked out because Disney refused to oppose it. The resulting legal trouble for the company cost it dearly in goodwill.

There wouldn't be a problem with companies taking a stand in what they and their employees believe if corporations like Chick-fil-A and

Hobby Lobby weren't branded as "intolerant" or "homophobic" for promoting family-friendly policies. Until that's true, damn the woke corporations and the horse they road in on.

1. <https://news.gallup.com/opinion/gallup/405656/adults-split-companies-taking-political-social-stances.aspx>

2.1.15 WH Press Secretary Claims Republicans Are the Ones Who Made the Border Worse (2023-01-11 16:17)

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre claimed on Friday the Biden administration are the ones who are victims of the border crisis because they inherited a broken border from the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress have made the situation worse.

Jean-Pierre's comments are despite the fact it was the Biden administration who reversed many of the Trump administration's policies that led to lower numbers of illegal crossings. In the time since then, illegal border crossings skyrocketed and continue to remain at record highs.

"We will continue to call on Congress to act. That will not stop. And, look, I also want to just put this in the broader context here, the President inherited a mess because of what the last administration did. We inherited a mess and Republicans in Congress made it worse by blocking comprehensive immigration reform," Jean-Pierre said.

"And so what you're seeing from this President is he's acting. He's acting to continue to protect the border, secure the border, and also deal with irregular migration," she added.

President Biden will finally visit the southern border to assess the situation in El Paso, Texas. The visit is part of a trip to Mexico to meet with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Biden unveiled a new plan to address the

ongoing border crisis on Thursday, which will include more deportations but also more pathways for people to be allowed into the country. During his speech, Biden blamed Republicans in Congress multiple times for not voting in favor of amnesty or any of the other ideas he has proposed.

2.1.16 Chaos in Brazil: Protesters Storm Capital, Destroying Supreme Court and Congress (2023-01-11 16:19)

Thousands of opponents of socialist convicted felon President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva stormed his offices and the headquarters of the Congress and Supreme Federal Tribunal (STF) of Brazil on Sunday, reportedly demolishing the facades of two of the three buildings and causing “irreparable” damage to priceless artifacts in the chambers.

The riot in Brasilia occurred while Lula himself was in Sao Paulo state assessing the damage of recent floods. Lula, in a public statement following police action to subdue the protesters, announced an official “federal intervention” in Brasilia – consolidating the public security powers of several agencies into the hands of a hand-picked, top-level official – and accused police of acting in “bad faith” in failing to prevent the protesters from storming the buildings.

The incident is an offshoot of [1]months of protests following the October presidential election that saw Lula narrowly defeat then-incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro in two rounds of voting. Most protesters support Bolsonaro but, more broadly, oppose Lula’s victory as illegitimate on several grounds, including his multiple convictions on charges of corrupt acts occurring during his first two terms as president. An audit of the 2022 runoff presidential election, which featured only Bolsonaro and Lula as candidates, by the Armed Forces of Brazil [2]concluded that no guarantee could be made of the absence of fraud or irregularities.

Protesters also accuse the STF, particularly its head justice Alexandre de Moraes, of intervening in the election by censoring mentions of Lula’s corruption case and silencing Bolsonaro supporters through fines and police raids.

Lula's inauguration on January 1 [3]occurred without major incident and Lula used his powers to immediately begin undoing Bolsonaro policies, most notably sharply limiting civilian access to firearms. Last month, Lula's pick for justice minister, Flavio Dino, referred to anti-Lula protest groups as "[4]incubators of terrorism."

Many of the protesters convening in Brasilia on Sunday are part of a movement demanding that the nation's military oust Lula. They insist that their demand is not for a coup d'etat, but for a "military intervention" they say the Brazilian constitution provides for in the event of an illegitimate election.

[5]

Protesters, supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro, hold a banner that reads in Portuguese "Military Intervention" as they storm the National Congress building in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

Some protesters shared videos on social media during the event on Sunday urging the military to "save us from communism."

Forças armadas faça se cumprir a constituição! Cumpra sua missão!
Salve o Brasil da corrupção! Livra nosso país do comunismo! Hoje 7/01/23
Brasília! [6]pic.twitter.com/QpwcylxKd

— Juliana a Sincera (@julianaSL7) [7]January 8, 2023

The Brazilian news network Jovem Pan [8]reported that what began as a peaceful protest on Sunday against Lula veered out of control as “nearly 100” buses from around the country drove into the capital, overwhelming the number of police in the streets. The protesters tore down a barricade keeping them off of the Congressional building’s esplanade and climbed atop it, storming its roof while hundreds of others destroyed the glass facade below. The mob [9]succeeded despite police attempting to hold back the wave of people with tear gas.

The protesters reportedly chanted slogans such as “Brazil is ours!”

[10]

Protesters, supporters of Brazil’s former President Jair Bolsonaro, storm the National Congress building in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

Once in the building, protesters set part of the Congress on fire, and destroyed several offices. Authorities have not yet at press time estimated the total damage to the building, though multiple Brazilian news outlets have cited eyewitness accounts to conclude it was significant.

Supporters of Jair Bolsonaro set the National Congress on fire.
[11]pic.twitter.com/L9YxACQtYt

— Amichai Stein (@AmichaiStein1) [12]January 8, 2023

At the STF, the nation's top court, Jovem Pan documented shouts of "break everything, people!"

ATENTADOS EM BRASÍLIA: Prédio do STF tem o andar térreo e o plenário completamente destruídos. Servidores da segurança foram ameaçados e documentos oficiais podem ter sido extraviados. Vídeo: George Marques. [13]pic.twitter.com/NAPmiJqvms

— Renato Souza (@reporterenato) [14]January 8, 2023

The STF is a target of particular hatred from Brazilian conservatives due to its use of censorship powers against Bolsonaro supporters. Minister [Justice] de Moraes – who also ran the Superior Electoral Court (TSE), which administers elections, last year – presided over a “fake news” probe that [15]resulted in violent police raids against comedians, Youtube commentators, and journalists in 2020 for having publicly supported Bolsonaro. De Moraes also presided over the arrest and [16]sentencing of former Congressman Daniel Silveira to eight years in prison for having insulted STF ministers in a youtube video; Bolsonaro [17]pardoned Silveira last year.

According to Jovem Pan, one protester “tore the door off of Minister Alexandre de Moraes’ office ... and took it outside.”

The left-leaning Brazilian newspaper *O Globo* described the damage to the STF building and its “historical heritage” as “[18]irreparable.” In addition to de Moraes’ door, the protesters destroyed several busts of former top court justices, potentially hundreds of years old, as well as other historically significant artwork and the main chamber where the STF conducts its businesses.

“There were Japanese vases, rugs dating back to the [Portuguese] Empire and tapestries dating back to the 19th century,” *O Globo* noted. “These pieces were part of the collection of

the first headquarters of the STF, located in Rio de Janeiro.”

The ministers’ chairs were reportedly also destroyed.

In front of Planalto, the presidential palace, protesters clashed with police on horseback, who kept them from inflicting major damage to the building.

[19]

Supporters of Brazilian former President Jair Bolsonaro clash with riot police as they invade Planalto Presidential Palace in Brasilia on January 8, 2023. (Sergio Lima/AFP)

Jovem Pan reported claims that the police used a helicopter to fire warning shots, though other outlets have not confirmed that report.

The reports of clashes with police coexist with reports of police engaging in friendly, apparently supportive conversation with some protesters. In one [20]video surfacing online, according to *O Globo*, protesters claimed police were affirming to them that they support the anti-Lula movement. The video shows officers speaking to protesters, but their conversation is not audible.

Journalists also captured some dramatic moments of protesters apparently coming to the aid of an officer in a clash with other protesters.

[21]

Supporters of Brazilian former President Jair Bolsonaro assist a Military Police officer during clashes after an attempt to invade the Planalto Presidential Palace in Brasilia on January 8, 2023. (SERGIO LIMA/AFP via Getty Images)

Lula was not in Brasilia on Sunday. He was in Araraquara, Sao Paulo state, on a reportedly pre-planned trip to assess the damage of recent flooding. In a press conference before his departure back to the capital on Sunday night, Lula condemned the police and security officials for not preventing the breaches.

“You must have followed the barbarism in Brasilia today,” Lula wrote to his audience on Twitter, in comments paraphrasing his speech from Sao Paulo. “Those people we call fascists, the most abominable thing in politics, invaded the palace and Congress. We think there was a lack of security.”

Vocês devem ter acompanhado a barbárie em Brasília hoje. Aquelas pessoas que chamamos de fascistas, o que há de mais abominável na política, invadiram a sede do palácio e o Congresso. Achemos que houve falta de segurança.

— Lula (@LulaOficial) [22]January 8, 2023

In his actual remarks, according to the [23]BBC, Lula claimed police “did absolutely nothing” to protect the capital and accused them of “bad faith.”

Lula announced an official executive decree “intervening” in Brasilia Federal District (DF), appointing an official public security czar for Brasilia that now has the power to consolidate various security agency powers and override Brasilia officials. The powers are in effect through January 31.

Decreto assinado por Lula para intervenção federal no Distrito Federal. [24]
#EquipeLula [25]pic.twitter.com/1gHJluDGLf

— Lula (@LulaOficial) [26]January 8, 2023

Jair Bolsonaro has not commented on the protests at press time. He is believed to be in Florida, where locals have sighted him perusing local businesses in the past week.

Jair Bolsonaro wandering around a Publix. [27]pic.twitter.com/PKX3EJ1QgT

1. <https://www.breitbart.com/latin-america/2022/11/01/pro-bolsonaro-truckers-paralyze-brazil-with-hundreds-of-blockades-nationwide/>
2. <https://www.breitbart.com/latin-america/2022/11/11/brazil-military-says-possible-security-risk-existed-p-residential-election/>
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 17. <https://www.breitbart.com/latin-america/2022/04/22/brazil-bolsonaro-pardons-conservative-congressman-sentenced-to-prison-for-youtube-video/>
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 25. <https://t.co/1gHjIuDGLf>
 26. https://twitter.com/LulaOficial/status/1612193475369336832?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 27. <https://t.co/PKX3EJ1QgT>
-

2.1.17 Want to Teach in Minnesota? Christians Need Not Apply. (2023-01-15 19:24)

I grew up in Minnesota when it was a very nice, normal place; a time when the unofficial state motto was “30 Below Keeps The Riff-Raff Out,” and the meanest thing about it was that lady who scowled at Mary Tyler Moore tossing her hat into the air on TV.

But in a couple years, Christians will not be allowed to work as public school teachers. Neither will Muslims or Jews. The reason for this religious bigotry is new teacher licensing rules that will require teachers to personally affirm transgender ideology.

Biology, genetics, endocrinology, physiology and anatomy have shown that, with the exception of a minuscule portion of the human race, people are born either male or female. But a growing cadre of science-denying ideologues believes people can just decide what sex they are.

I’m something of a libertarian in this regard, but there are limits. If some misguided soul wants to present himself or herself as something they’re not, that’s their business. But when somebody demands we believe and affirm these delusions, under penalty of law, that’s a problem.

It’s not just me. This is also a problem for Muslims who believe in the teachings of the Quran which instructs believers that in Allah’s creation, he “made of him two kinds, male and female.”

If you think this is some obscure passage, you may recall how Muslim parents in Dearborn, Michigan, last fall vocally protested against local schools that wanted to indoctrinate their children with transgender ideology. The parents were right to do so.

Transgender ideology not only violates the faith of Muslims, it violates that of Bible-believing

Jews and Christians as well. The book of Genesis is pretty clear about this, stating in the very first chapter, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them."

But if you happen to be one of the roughly 5 billion people on Earth who subscribe to one of these faiths, Minnesota doesn't want you to teach public school.

Beginning in 2025, the rules of the state Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board will require that, "A teacher ensures student identities such as race/ethnicity, national origin, language, sex and gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical/developmental/emotional ability, socioeconomic class, and religious beliefs are historically and socially contextualized, affirmed, and incorporated into a learning environment" (emphasis added).

People who believe in the God of the Bible or the God of the Quran will be forced to affirm an ideology that is contrary to their faith. This is not a recommendation; it's a requirement for employment.

This is inconsistent with Minnesota statutes, which plainly state, "It is the public policy of this state to secure for persons in this state, freedom from discrimination: (1) in employment because of race, color, creed, religion..."

The Minnesota Human Rights Act further says it's an unfair labor practice to deny employment to someone, "because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age."

The law does provide an exception, "based on a bona fide occupational qualification," which makes some sense. After all, it's entirely reasonable for a synagogue to want to hire Jews. A Christian or Muslim school would probably want to hire Christians and Muslims as well. But apparently, the teacher licensing authority in Minnesota has decided that believing God created us man and woman is somehow disqualifying.

This is more than the latest skirmish in the ongoing culture wars. How is this not a violation of black-letter law? It smacks of illegal discrimination based on religion. Imagine the howls if the state required teachers to profess the faith of an established religion. I wouldn't like that either.

Some might argue that this isn't religious discrimination. People can still work as teachers as long as they recant their faith. This tactic has been commonly used by authoritarians across time and around the globe. It is religious persecution on par with that of North Korea and the old Soviet Union.

Will Minnesotans allow this to happen? According to Pew Research, more than 75 percent of Minnesotans are either Christian, Muslim or Jewish. That's a big number. I would love to see 4 million people living in the Land of 10,000 Lakes stand up and demand their government not discriminate against them. It might just make the news.

But it doesn't take 4 million people to change this bigoted, Marxist policy. I think three people could get the job done. One Muslim, one Jew and one Christian should engage counsel and sue the state, forcing it to end this religious persecution. If they open a legal defense

fund, I'm happy to send a check.

2.1.18 Karine Jean-Pierre Just Proved the White House Is Anything But Transparent (2023-01-15 19:27)

Friday's White House press briefing brought more of the same non-answer responses from Biden's Press Secretary — Karine Jean-Pierre — who's turned into something of a broken record when it comes to her repetitive insistence that the president takes classified documents "very seriously." (He doesn't.)

President Biden's spokeswoman repeatedly refused to answer questions from White House reporters, often making a similar excuse for why she couldn't say, for example, whether Biden would sit for an interview with investigators: The White House Counsel's Office has already issued statements and she simply can't say anything further.

Apparently Jean-Pierre expects everyone to accept that copping to the president's improper handling of sensitive documents *after* he'd been caught and the story broke — and then refusing to answer questions about the situation — is the utmost in transparency. (It's not.)

REPORTER: "Is it the policy of the White House that they should share that information not just with the National Archives, but with the American people?"

KJP: "I have been here almost every day...taking your questions...the actions that we took were right actions..." pic.twitter.com/w0wFF1A895
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) January 13, 2023

Instead of offering any information, Jean-Pierre just tried to brush the inquiries out of her briefing room and to the White House Counsel's Office as she's done in every briefing since news of Biden's top secret "whoopsie" broke.

Her repeated redirection of questions to the president's counsel drew an obvious question: Why won't Jean-Pierre invite Biden counsel Richard Sauber or someone from the counsel's office to the briefing room to answer reporters' questions if she, as press secretary, isn't allowed?

Recommended

Dems Are Starting to Get That Biden's Press Secretary Isn't Built for Crisis

Matt Vespa

Naturally, Jean-Pierre rebuffed the suggestion and, yet again, directed questions to the White House Counsel's Office.

REPORTER: "You've several times today referred people to the White House counsel...would you bring Richard Sauber here...to answer these questions in the briefing room...?"

KJP: "I would refer you to the White House counsel office." pic.twitter.com/DSE7nh8jzj
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) January 13, 2023

It's not like Jean-Pierre isn't a fan of guests in her briefings. She frequently trots out National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan or the National Security Council's John Kirby to do a filibuster act of sorts and run out the clock to avoid having to weather long Q & A periods with reporters.

So what's different this time? Why won't the administration that promised transparency and to restore confidence in the presidency make their people who apparently have all the answers to questions about Biden's mishandling of classified documents available?

Well, that question was also raised in Friday's briefing. According to Karine Jean-Pierre, not having or being unwilling to give answers is proof that the Biden administration is delivering on its promise because being unresponsive to questions means that Biden has restored the independence of the Justice Department. Yay transparency? Apparently opaqueness is transparency and scattering classified documents around the Mid-Atlantic is treating them with the utmost seriousness.

REPORTER: "Does this episode undercut that argument that [Biden] would restore confidence...?"

KJP: "When we're saying we're gonna refer you to the Department of Justice, that is restoring independence as it relates to issues like this!" pic.twitter.com/jZI00Bv1Yj
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) January 13, 2023

Never mind, evidently, the mountain of evidence showing the White House giving woke marching orders to Attorney General Merrick Garland and the DOJ earlier in Biden's time in office.

It also became clear on Friday that the only answers Karine Jean-Pierre is willing to give are the ones reporters have already figured out and reported on. That is, only copping to wrongdoing after it's been made known. The best example of this was when Jean-Pierre said nothing about the second set of classified documents being found in Biden's garage in her briefing that happened less than one hour before reporting broke the existence of the Wilmington tranche next to the president's Corvette.

Again, Jean-Pierre had a repetitive excuse for her refusal to say anything that Biden hadn't already been busted for: It's "a process."

REPORTER: "You have answered questions when the press has broken the news..."

KJP: "Because it's an ongoing process. Because, again, it is an ongoing process. There is a process here...We respect that process." pic.twitter.com/LoB0tld0qh
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) January 13, 2023

That process, of course, conveniently obscures facts that the White House is aware of but the press and American people haven't found out yet. It's the opposite of transparency and antithetical to the Biden administration's stated promise to restore Americans' confidence in the White House and its occupant.

2.1.19 Poll: Do GOP Voters Want House Republicans to Work With Democrats, or Focus on Opposition? (2023-01-15 19:30)

This is a poll of Republican-leaning voters, I'll underscore right out of the gate, not of the broader electorate. The question posed is whether these voters would prefer to see the new GOP House majority (a) gravitate more towards compromise and working with the president and his party, or (b) primarily digging into an opposition role. I would have anticipated a lopsided response for the latter option, but that's not exactly what CBS News found in this survey result. It found a dead heat:

Striking finding in the new @CBSNews national poll:

Republicans split evenly on how the House majority should use its power: 48 % say work with Biden/Democrats, 52 % say focus on opposition.

(Among self-ID'd MAGA Republicans, over 2-to-1 say oppose.)<https://t.co/ARtcBSNiBJpic.twitter.com/dYNtz4gLLp>

— Sahil Kapur (@sahilkapur) January 8, 2023

I'm surprised that nearly half chose the former option, including a third of self-identified 'MAGA Republicans.' I'd tend to side more with the 'focus on opposition' bare majority, because the overwhelming point of electing a red House was to put an end to one-party rule. Democrats had done enough damage over two years, and what was needed was a powerful brake on that agenda. Someone to say 'no.' That someone is newly-minted House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who can kill Democratic schemes and excesses dead in their tracks. That's the key function of the job, given the current constellation of power in Washington, DC. However, Republicans famously under-performed in historic fashion last November, despite winning the public opinion arguments on most of the campaign's top issues. They fell short of their potential and failed to live up to historical precedent because independent and swing voters (the people who tend to make majorities and elect presidents) split their votes nearly evenly between the unpopular in-power party and the unpopular out-of-power party. The typical clear advantage for the opposition in times of widespread discontentment didn't materialize.

This was especially true at the federal level, as many voters couldn't bring themselves to support candidates perceived as too crazy or too tied to the former president. More mainstream candidates, especially governors across the center-right ideological and temperamental spectrum, won - often handily. But others sagged substantially behind those sorts of Republicans, suppressing the party's House gains, and preventing the GOP from recapturing the US Senate. Many of the voters who were most responsible for Democrats' over-performance were not enamored of Democrats' governing record. Many disapprove of Joe Biden. But they couldn't quite get to the point of holding their noses and voting R this time. A lot of these voters, and apparently quite a few others who are more solidly Republican, will expect to see checks, balances, accountability, and opposition...to a point. But they will also expect to see some semblance of functional governance, too, as we've been saying. 'Normie' voters aren't like political addicts and terminally-online junkies. They recoil at chaos and abnormalcy. They punish politicians and parties who shake these sensibilities too often.

Republicans would therefore be wise to reject much of what Democrats would have at-

tempted to do under unified government, of course, but also to pick their spots in saying 'yes.' This will require discerning prudential judgments and fairly unified buy-in, which is why last week's Speaker saga was less concerning as a 'crisis' (it wasn't) than as a prelude to multiple crippling rounds of high-decibel dysfunction over the next two years. In their essential opposition role, Republicans should draw certain red lines, obviously, and home in on accountability-minded areas of inquiry that will attract broad support – or at least widespread acknowledgement that such scrutiny is warranted. The Afghanistan debacle. The border crisis. And, without a doubt, this:

Randi Weingarten wants to gaslight people into believing her union wanted schools open despite all evidence to the contrary. Time for congressional hearings. Hop to it, House GOP. <https://t.co/3ElunlcV5E>

— Rory Cooper (@rorycooper) January 9, 2023

The gaslighting from Weingarten and other teachers union bosses will enrage a great many parents, and must be actively exposed and countered. Not just on social media, but within the halls of power. Under oath. On the record. Let it never be forgotten that the unions used their partisan clout to alter official "science," in order to advance a selfish political agenda, at the expense of children's education and well being. Adjudicate and re-litigate that aggressively, particularly because of the shameless revisionism being attempted. It's also fine for Republicans to pursue more partisan and base-galvanizing fascinations, such as Hunter Biden's laptop story or the FBI's political weaponization (both of which deserve a hard look), but they should beware of overreach. Not 'Democrats and journalists whine' overreach, but 'normie voters think this is weird and problematic' overreach. Much of this comes down to making savvy choices and wise judgments. On that score, I'll leave you with this piece from earlier in the week – which is compellingly and cleanly argued, in my view, and is also notable because of who wrote it and where it appeared:

A Claremont Institute senior fellow & Senior Editor of the Claremont Review of Books lays out his case against nominating Trump again in 2024. Superbly argued, worth reading/considering:

"Do [GOP voters] want to make a statement or to win an election?" <https://t.co/chGW1XuBsQ>
— Guy Benson (@guypbenson) January 9, 2023

A frenzied 'Never Trump' Bulwarkian screed this is not. Rather it's a cold, clinical look at why, in the author's estimation, "there is no sound or even sane risk/reward assessment that culminates in choosing Donald Trump to be the 2024 GOP presidential nominee:"

"Politics ain't beanbag," journalist Finley Peter Dunne declared in 1895. Neither is it a form of therapy or a vehicle for affirming group solidarity. Republicans pondering what to do in 2024 must engage the question Democrats faced 48 years earlier: Do we want to make a statement or to win an election? Is the point to air grievances and manifest defiance against the woke Democratic Party and its academic, journalistic, and corporate auxiliaries? Or is the objective to achieve the virtuous circle of partisan politics: win elections, thereby acquiring power, which is used to enact sound policies, ones whose beneficial effects increase the likelihood of winning future elections? ... We know too much in 2023 to think that Trump will be a better politician in the future than he has shown himself to be in the past. To begin with, we know too much about Trump as a Republican presidential nominee to be confident that he'll prevail against Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, or some other Democrat in 2024. Given that Trump won 46.1 % of the popular vote in 2016 and 46.8 % in 2020,

we have every reason to believe that his ceiling is on the wrong side of 50 %. This is a problem.

In 2016, many things had to go just right for Trump to translate his second-place finish into an Electoral College majority, starting with third-party candidates winning 5.7 % of the vote and Hillary Clinton's singular shortcomings as a politician. To predicate another presidential nomination on such favorable conditions falling into place once more is to invite defeat. There's little reason to think that Trump can crack this ceiling and improve upon the results he got in 2016 and 2020. Since announcing his candidacy in 2015, Trump has been the nation's dominant political story: the most discussed person in public life and the most polarizing. At this point, the number of voters who feel they still don't know enough about him to form an opinion would barely fill a high-school auditorium. Within the 53 % of the electorate that has voted against him twice, the subset that is amenable to being won over in a third contest must be even smaller. In 2016, Trump won 48 % of independent voters against Hillary Clinton's 42 %, according to exit polls. Four years later, he lost among independents by 54 % to 41 %...Not even unanimous support by Republican voters would make him competitive in a general election...

The Resistance strengthened Trump's bond with his voters by giving them a shared grievance: he had won the 2016 nomination and election after playing by the rules; they had voted for him in the good-faith expectation that their duly elected candidate would enjoy the same powers and authority under the Constitution as did his duly elected predecessors; but Washington's permanent government set out from Day One to override voters' judgment with its own. The belief that the Establishment stole a second term from Trump and his voters is of a piece with the belief that it worked, unremittingly and with considerable success, to steal his first term. Trump's most committed followers ended up more aggrieved after the 2020 election than they had been before the 2016 one. The resulting determination to treat 2024 as a last chance to send a message that rebukes these tormentors, his and theirs, is a powerful one. Two things can be true, however: that Trump was unfairly maligned and thwarted; and that he made the worst of a bad situation ... A political party that wants to prevail or even survive must treat these contests seriously, putting forward its most promising rather than its most victimized candidates...Even if one stipulates that the transgressions Trump committed were less serious than the ones he suffered, the Republican Party exists to win elections and govern wisely, not to validate and nurture grievances. Its ultimate objective of principled victory cannot be reconciled with nominating Donald Trump for president in 2024.

Agree or disagree, I strongly encourage you to read and think through the whole thing. The 2022 midterms, coupled with 2018 and 2020's setbacks, offer a number of hard and clear lessons for Republican voters. Whether they can collectively accept and act on these lessons in a strategic way may determine whether 2024 represents a needed bounce-back or a devastating own-goal. Important decisions are coming. Choose wisely.

2.1.20 The once 'recession-proof' video game industry is looking wobbly this year (2023-01-15 19:34)

Video games keep levelling up. The graphics become more realistic and fantastical by the day, the gameplay grows smoother and the storylines have become so good at pulling at heartstrings that there's hardly a franchise out there that doesn't have a movie or TV series

adaptation in the works.

Today, the video game industry is worth more than both the music and movie industries combined. So why are people suddenly concerned that it is heading towards game over?

The reason is that they have cause to be alarmed. Despite people having embraced video games during the pandemic to shield them against the monotony of lockdowns, the once hailed “recession-proof” sector is showing a bit of wobble.

Leaving the social restrictions of the Covid-19 years behind has left people eager to open themselves up to real experiences. At the same time, the video game industry is hobbled with supply chain issues and constant title release delays.

Vladimir Putin is also to blame for the woes of the industry. When Russia invaded Ukraine, the Moscow stopped any financial recovery the world may have enjoyed from the coronavirus crisis. Instead, national banks around the world have issued warnings about skyrocketing inflation. There are even whispers of a recession at the door.

The cost of living crisis means consumers will likely spend far less money on gaming hardware, software and accessories this year, according to Mat Piscatella, executive director at research company NPD Group.

Together, these factors are expected to cause video game sales to decline in 2022 for the first time in years. For a sector that’s gone from strength to strength in the last decade, that could be a serious confidence buster.

The 2010s sent video game industry into the stratosphere

The gaming industry is a very different beast from what it was 10 years ago. As technology grows, so does the accessibility and interactivity of gaming software and hardware.

The 2010s saw the introduction of some key gaming moments that has pushed the video game industry into the stratosphere. The future relies heavily on four major trends: gaming subscriptions, mobile gaming, esports and cloud gaming.

Let’s start with gaming subscriptions. It’s hard to imagine gaming without subscription services in 2022, but before 2010, they were nowhere near as prevalent. Playstation Now, Xbox Game Pass and EA Access are now just a few of the monthly/annually paid services that offer gamers content. Google Stadia also fits into this category, but Alphabet has been scaling back the project over the past year.

Mobile gaming is another key area for the industry. Gaming on mobiles in the 2010s moved a long way away from just playing Snake on your Nokia brick phone. Tencent Games’ battle royale PUBG Mobile bagged a whopping 100 million downloads in the first four months of its life. Pokemon Go had the world leaving their homes and travelling the world to find AR Pokemon and has raised over \$400bn in lifetime revenue.

“Mobiles now have a very strong affinity to games with it offering the option for users to play games on the move from wherever they like,” Arunabh Madhur, regional VP and head of business EMEA at internet technology company SHAREit Group, tells Verdict.

“It has also become more accessible for consumers to use mobile for gaming instead of purchasing additional hard copies of games and video games consoles.”

Esports is a third area of fierce competition, both among the players participating in the games and the companies who develop them.

Competitive gaming is now at the forefront of mainstream culture. Games like Fortnite and CS GO hold global competitions with multimillion-dollar prizes. American YouTuber Kyle Giersdorf caused a media frenzy when he bagged \$3m in a Fortnite World Cup at just 16 years old.

Cloud gaming is the fourth area for gaming aficionados to keep abreast of. The 2010s saw more technology heavyweights enter the industry and push forward cloud gaming. Google dropped its cloud gaming service at the end of 2019, which allowed gamers to stream titles directly through the cloud without the need for hardware with powerful specs.

So why is the industry wobbling now?

The game sector has grown over the past decade, culminating in an explosive boom during the pandemic. Combined sales of games, consoles and subscriptions totalled a whopping \$191bn globally in 2021. According to Ampere Analysis, this is due to drop by 1.2 % to \$188bn this year.

“[There] was a distinct change during Covid where more people from more diverse groups played games,” Simonetta Lulli, CEO of mobile game publisher GameHouse, tells Verdict.

However, things are changing. People are spending less money on gaming than they were last year. Some analysts have attributed the decrease to society moving back out of lockdowns and going outside more.

“Gaming was a vital entertainment channel for many people during Covid-19 lockdowns,” Rupantar Guha, analyst at GlobalData, tells Verdict.

“The industry enjoyed a rapid influx of new users in 2020, which resulted in revenue growth. While the trend continued to 2021, it is not surprising that the momentum is slowing in 2022 as the impact of the pandemic subsides.”

This certainly makes sense for console gamers who were locked inside and gaming at home. But mobile gaming which took in a revenue of around \$119bn in 2021 has actually seen the biggest setback, according to NPD Group.

A number of factors can be seen for the whole industry’s decline. Global inflation is the obvious one. With the cost of living going up, purse strings are becoming increasingly tighter.

Another is supply issues with gaming hardware which heavily impacted the launch of Sony’s Playstation 5. The manufacturing speed needed to keep up with the demand was impossible to achieve due to chip shortages, making the console an extremely hard piece of kit for gamers to get their hands on.

Shortages also affected PC gamers who wanted to upgrade their machines, as graphic

cards and processors were also in low supply.

“Covid-19 impacted gaming supply chains, which need stabilisation as the pandemic comes under control,” Guha says.

“For instance, gaming companies need to address the shortage of chips that power gaming devices and speed up the critical game art design units to launch delayed games.”

It's true, 2021 saw one of the most delay-filled years in all of gaming's history will have had a knock-on effect into 2022. A survey of over 3,000 industry professionals found that 44 % of them had to delay a game during the pandemic.

Can gamers remain hopeful for the future?

Despite all of these obstacles and setbacks for the industry, many analysts expect the industry to continue to grow. While some have notably put the controller down after the pandemic, some are expected to have stayed.

The global gaming market is expected to be worth \$321bn by 2026, according to PwC's Global Entertainment and Media Outlook.

“The widespread popularity of gaming and potentially lucrative revenue opportunities will drive the industry forward,” Guha said.

But in order for the future to remain bright for gaming, Guha believes companies must “invest in disruptive themes to ensure long-term growth”.

This comes as companies like Meta and its subsidiary Oculus as well as Sony continue to innovate and release virtual reality (VR) headsets, which are becoming an increasingly popular way to game.

VR gaming was worth a respectable \$1.1bn in 2020 but analysts have predicted seeing the market grow to \$2.4bn by 2024, Plarium report. That is despite scepticism that VR gaming has been hailed as the next stage in entertainment since the 1980s, but that the revolution has still to materialise.

Disruptive themes like VR and the metaverse bring in their own challenges for the video game industry. Security being one of the most pressing.

“Gaming companies must also invest in cybersecurity,” Guha said, “gaming is increasingly digital, which, by default, attracts hackers to access user data and money.”

As challenges continue to mount on the industry, gamers continue to flock in their millions to the latest release. Whether that's on console, mobile, PC or VR – it's safe to say that the gaming industry isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

2.1.21 The new labor market: No bachelor's required? (2023-01-15 19:43)

Groom, who was once enrolled at Bowie State University, left college when his first daughter was born. That daughter now has a college diploma. Groom still does not. But he had gained experience and credentials: a two-decade rise in retail from Giant cashier to CVS store manager, and a suite of computer networking certificates that led him to three years of information technology contracting gigs.

When Groom interviewed for his first IT job, he heard the dispiriting sentence that trips up so many careers: "I'm looking for someone with a bachelor's degree." But the hiring manager at that job looked past the unchecked box, and took Groom on as a configuration management analyst.

"Certificates are huge in IT. A certificate will get you in the door. But if you're gonna go anywhere, you need that [B.A.] in addition."

Amber Wallace Dekie, help desk professional

That was one position, and one hiring manager. Who knew what would happen with the next job search? With Hogan's move, however, the lack of a degree was no longer an obstacle, at least for state jobs: It was a reason to be recruited.

"It means a lot," Groom said of Hogan's announcement. "There are a lot of companies limiting out a lot of talent. You can have a degree and not have the knowledge and skill sets."

He followed a link to a job site called Stellarworx and applied for two IT positions with the state.

Related: What if we hired for skills not degrees?

Thanks to a tight labor market, more good jobs are opening up to workers who lack a bachelor's degree. A month after Maryland's announcement, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis directed government agencies in his state to embrace hiring workers for skills, not degrees. Private sector employers have been rolling back B.A. requirements too.

While the pandemic labor shortage has prompted more employers to welcome applications from workers without degrees, workforce advocates have been pushing back for years against a surge of so-called degree inflation triggered by the Great Recession. When the economy tanked in 2008 and millions of laid-off workers began competing for scarce jobs, employers got pickier about who they hired and increasingly added four-year degree requirements to some "middle-skills" jobs that had frequently been filled by workers without degrees. (Middle-skills jobs, which include positions in fields such as health care, IT, and sales, require some training or education beyond high school, although not necessarily a B.A. — jobs like registered nurse, human resources assistant, or help desk technician.) Even before Covid hit, advocates for accepting applicants who lack a college degree had found some success persuading employers that it is in their interest, no matter the labor market, to hire workers who have skills but lack a bachelor's degree.

The Google campus in Mountain View, California. The company is one of many that's dropping bachelor's degree requirements for certain jobs. Credit: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

The increasing availability of good jobs for those without degrees coincides with a grow-

ing struggle for postsecondary education. Enrollment, already on a decade-long decline, dropped precipitously during the pandemic, emptying a million seats at two-year and four-year colleges. This convergence — fewer people pursuing diplomas, and more being recruited without one — raises the prospect of young workers putting less stock in obtaining a bachelor's degree, for so long an unshakable aspiration for Americans of every background.

The lack of the credential has traditionally shut workers out of their desired professions and the wealth accumulation that comes with them. Sixty-two percent of Americans over 25 have no bachelor's degree, and that number rises to 72 percent for Black adults and 79 percent for Hispanic adults. Any shift in the workforce to the advantage of workers without degrees carries obvious implications for economic mobility and equity.

However wide the door opens for workers without degrees, they won't get through it without sufficient skills. Their success in the labor market depends upon finding an affordable pathway to develop those skills and the willingness of employers to keep prioritizing skills over degrees, even if a recession upends the job market.

Some workforce observers see reasons to believe employers will keep that door open for workers without degrees, even if the economy sends more college graduates their way.

Related: More students question college, putting counselors in a fresh quandary

When the Hogan administration heard how hard it was becoming for agencies to fill open positions, it partnered with a nonprofit organization called Opportunity@Work to recruit workers like Groom. Opportunity@Work calls such workers "STARs," because they are Skilled Through Alternative Routes, like workforce training, community college courses and job experience.

Opportunity@Work connects STARs to training programs and works with employers to develop job listings for its Stellarworx employment website. The organization claims 70 million Americans are STARs. Maryland labor secretary Tiffany Robinson estimated that 47 percent of Maryland workers are, too.

"We had a flood of applications on the first tranche of postings," Robinson said. She estimated that more than half of the state government's 38,000 jobs could eventually substitute experience for a four-year degree.

Businesses like Google, IBM, and Accenture have also made high-profile moves to boost skills-based hiring and remove bachelor's degree requirements. In a report on the "emerging degree reset" released earlier this year, the labor analytics firm Burning Glass found that just 9 percent of Accenture's "computer support specialist" listings required a bachelor's in 2021, down from 46 percent in 2017.

"The sad truth is, when you filter candidates based on college degrees, you're closing out the vast majority of Black and Latino talent in the country."

Merit America co-CEO Rebecca Taber Staehelin

During the pandemic, employers ditched degree requirements at an even faster pace. In January, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia examined a subset of middle-skill jobs and found that the proportion of job listings asking for a college degree dropped 4 percent between the first quarter of 2020 and the second quarter of 2021. In the Philly Fed's estimation,

that means 700,000 more of what it calls “opportunity jobs” — positions open to those lacking degrees that pay more than the U.S. yearly median of \$36,660.

Employers could slap bachelor’s requirements on these kinds of listings again, if job seekers come flooding back. But Joseph Fuller, a professor of management at Harvard Business School, believes many of them likely won’t.

The Burning Glass “degree reset” report, which Fuller co-wrote, found that between 2017 and 2019, the number of positions requiring a B.A. dropped by more than 5 percent in roughly half of all middle-skills occupations. Though the labor market was already tightening, the report found that only a quarter of these changes were “cyclical,” or attributable to the labor market. Sixty-three percent of the changes were deemed “potentially permanent” shifts in hiring practices.

The trend toward degree inflation, the report concluded, has been reversed. If it sticks, Fuller and his co-authors believe 1.4 million more jobs could become available to workers lacking a B.A. between now and 2027.

Related: Long disparaged, education for the skilled trades is slowly coming into fashion

Although degree requirements may disappear for many jobs, workers will still need some alternative way to build the skills required to get hired without a college degree, whether through workforce training, on-the-job experience, or the kind of short-term education and certifications provided by community colleges and other institutions. Many job seekers never get the chance to access these pathways because they are stuck in low-wage, low-skill jobs and, as Fuller put it, “can’t afford not to work.”

“They’re inhibited to seek training because they can’t give up what they’re doing now,” Fuller said.

Fuller points to the work of Social Finance, a nonprofit funded by “impact investors” that helps workers train without going under financially. Social Finance provides wraparound services such as an emergency aid fund for child care, rent or transportation. Workers pay back the cost of their training only when they reach a certain salary level.

In February, Google announced a \$100 million partnership with Social Finance to help as many as 20,000 workers earn IT certificates. Social Finance will draw on nonprofit workforce groups such as YearUp and Merit America to train participants and counsel them toward employment. Merit America co-CEO Rebecca Taber Staehelin said these kinds of programs can help companies walk the walk after years of talk about diversity, equity and inclusion.

“The sad truth is, when you filter candidates based on college degrees, you’re closing out the vast majority of Black and Latino talent in the country,” Taber Staehelin said.

Related: More people with bachelor’s degrees go back to school to learn skilled trades

Halid Hamadi, a 28-year-old Washington, D.C., resident, stumbled upon a Merit America IT training program on Indeed.com. “I was like, ‘Okay, that’s too good to be true,’” he said. “Because in bold they said, ‘We’re looking for minorities that don’t have a bachelor’s degree.’”

A Google IT certification helped Halid Hamadi, 28, jump from minimum wage work at a Nike store to a \$45,000 help desk job. Credit: Image by Anne Giebel, provided by Merit America

Hamadi had withdrawn from Penn State University in 2016 for financial reasons and taken a minimum wage retail job back home in Montgomery County, Maryland. Merit America provided a stipend that helped him afford a bus pass to attend job counseling sessions while he completed a 13-week Coursera program to earn a Google IT certification. His first job was a \$45,000 “tier one” tech support position with a health care software developer. Two promotions later, he was an integration engineer making \$75,000.

Another Merit America participant, 32-year-old Amber Wallace Dekie of Manassas, Virginia, graduated from high school in 2008, just in time to hear the housing bubble pop. She chose a comparatively recession-resistant industry to work in: health care.

“I realized I’d find more work; it felt like there was job security in it,” she said. “I found out later they don’t pay very well — the lower-level jobs, at least.”

She worked as a nurse’s aide, clinical technician and pharmacy assistant, never earning more than \$14 per hour. Then her boyfriend landed a good IT job, and she started looking for her own. Like Hamadi, she stumbled onto Merit America’s program browsing IT listings on Indeed.com, applied, and completed the training. With her new Google certification, she went to Stellarworx and found a \$22-per-hour help desk job.

Related: More people with bachelor’s degrees go back to school to learn skilled trades

A bachelor’s degree still holds prestige as a ticket to the middle class, but its value has received increasing scrutiny. In the last several years, rising tuition has been reason enough to reconsider an investment in postsecondary education: Americans owe more than \$1.7 trillion in student loans. When Gallup asked Americans in 2019 about the value of college degrees, just 51 percent answered “very important,” down from 70 percent in 2013. The pandemic has driven down four-year college enrollment by 4 percent and community college enrollment by 17 percent since spring 2020.

Whether even more Americans opt out of four-year college will depend in part on the quality of jobs available without that diploma. Anthony Carnevale, director of Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce, said that a decade from now, 4 out of 10 jobs will be reserved for people with at least a bachelor’s degree, and 3 out of 10 for people who lack the degree but do have some training or postsecondary education.

“Where the rubber hits the road is: Are they good jobs or not?” said Carnevale. For four-year degree holders, 75 percent of jobs will be good — which he defined as paying at least \$40,000 per year by the time the worker reaches age 40. For those with no bachelor’s degree but more than a high school diploma, the share of good jobs drops to 40 percent. In other words, not everyone without a B.A. will be able to land a good job.

But, Carnevale said, “If you’re careful and make good choices, you don’t need a B.A.”

On Capitol Hill, where lawmakers are worrying about America’s competitiveness, Carnevale perceives a turn from higher education to workforce training. One bill currently in conference committee would make some short-term training programs eligible for federal Pell Grant

funding, as long as their graduates demonstrate a 20 percent wage increase.

“The communities that don’t have the college background, they still want that for their kids. They’ve been told that’s the American dream.”

Maureen Ponce, president-elect of the Maryland School Counselor Association

Still, the workers most likely to thrive, Carnevale said, will have accumulated both the general education and flexibility that come with a bachelor’s coupled with some specialized training. Specialization alone can pay off in the short-term: Carnevale said that 30 percent of two-year degree holders earn more than those with four-year degrees. But a bachelor’s degree still pays off in the long run through a significant advantage in lifetime earnings.

“The American B.A. is superior in the postindustrial world, and the reason appears to be that it makes people more adaptable over time. In 20 to 30 years, there’s something of a recovery in terms of earnings power,” Carnevale said.

In other words, a B.A. in, say, the humanities might get workers off to a slow start. “But a substantial share [of workers] 20 years out will be fine,” Carnevale said. “If you get a certificate in HVAC, 20 years out you’ll fall back in the pack.”

Even if more young people recognize the short-term gains they can make by plunging into the workforce without a college degree, that degree has retained its potency as a symbol of economic advancement. “I can’t tell you there’s one student I’ve ever talked to that said, ‘What’s the point of getting a college degree?’” said Maureen Ponce, president-elect of the Maryland School Counselor Association. “I’m Latina. For Latino families, it’s about, ‘I never had a chance to get a college degree. If my kids can get one, they’re gonna get one.’”

Counselors like Ponce work under the banner of “college and career readiness,” but any focus on career at the expense of college still gets pushback from families — and not just from wealthy families with Ivy League dreams.

“The communities that don’t have the college background, they still want that for their kids,” Ponce said. “They’ve been told that’s the American dream.”

Related: Debt without degree: The human cost of college that becomes ‘purgatory’

More workers may be accessing skills and finding good jobs without degrees, but not all of them have foreclosed on the idea of returning to school. Some, like Virginia resident and Merit America alumnus Wallace Dekie, worry they’ll hit a career ceiling without a college diploma, despite the gains they’ve made with alternative qualifications. Wallace Dekie knows the benefits of training — after moving into IT and developing specialized skills, she makes twice what she made as a nurse’s aide seven years ago — but she understands the power of the four-year degree.

“Certificates are huge in IT. A certificate will get you in the door. But if you’re gonna go anywhere, you need that [B.A.] in addition,” she said.

Previously stuck in low-wage jobs, 32-year-old Amber Wallace Dekie of Manassas, Virginia, jumped from health care to IT and nearly doubled her salary after workforce advocates helped her get a Google certification. Credit: Courtesy of Amber Wallace Dekie

She's currently looking into an online bachelor's program at Western Governors University, an online-only private institution.

The strategy of earning certificates in the IT field has also worked out well so far for Groom, the former cashier, even if it depended on the good luck of having a hiring manager who looked past his lack of a college diploma. Groom has already earned six figures in one year. The Hogan administration's move to hire for skills rather than degrees has opened another potential career path for him, and he hopes landing an IT job with the government will give him an entrée to a career in cyber security.

2.1.22 Employers are finally dropping college degree requirements (2023-01-15 19:54)

Over the last half century, more and more employers have started requiring job applicants to have a bachelor's degree—even in jobs where a majority of current workers do not have a four-year college education. “Degree inflation” threatens to shut the 62 % of working-age Americans who lack a bachelor's degree out of good middle-class jobs. But there are welcome signs that the trend may be reversing itself.

A new report from the Burning Glass Institute finds that a substantial number of occupations have experienced declines in bachelor's degree requirements over the last five years. In a third of occupations where most workers have a bachelor's degree or higher, the share of job postings requesting a college degree dropped by five percentage points or more between 2017 and 2019. The trend was even more pronounced in jobs where only some workers have a bachelor's degree.

For example, in 2017 43 % of job postings for real estate agents and brokers requested a bachelor's degree. But by 2019 that share had dropped to 33 %. The pandemic and its associated labor crunch further accelerated “degree deflation” among real estate agents; in 2020 only 26 % of job postings for this occupation demanded a four-year college education.

Just 38 % of the U.S. population 25 and older has at least a bachelor's degree. Stripping degree requirements from job postings will open up a large swath of occupations to a much greater share of the population. While not everyone has the time or resources to earn a bachelor's degree, many have the skills and motivation to fill the jobs the economy needs.

Some companies are making an explicit effort to fight degree inflation in the workplace. Last year, IBM announced that “[we have] now stripped bachelor's degree requirements for more than half of our US job openings, and we're continuously reevaluating our roles to prioritize skills over specific degrees.”

Only 31 % of job postings for software developer and software engineer roles at IBM request a college degree. But at competitor Hewlett-Packard, 84 % of postings for the same jobs require degrees. The contrast between the two technology giants shows that fighting degree inflation is a choice companies can make.

Fortunately, more and more employers are choosing wisely. Dropping bachelor's degree requirements from job postings both helps workers without college degrees and gives companies access to a broader pool of talent. Let's hope more employers follow IBM's lead.

2.1.23 The Left is Becoming Increasingly Similar to the Taliban (2023-01-16 23:00)

The left likes to use its support for murdering unborn babies as evidence the right discriminates against women, but stepping back and looking at the big picture, it's clear the left's policies are more in step with the misogyny of the Taliban. In fact, the left's increasingly Leninist tendencies are starting to move toward many policies of the Taliban. The comparison is rarely made, however, because the similarities are subtle and are increasing slowly, akin to heating up a frog slowly in boiling water so it doesn't realize what's happening.

The Taliban demands absolute adherence to its rigid beliefs, just like the left does with wokism. Re-education or else. Wokism is being coded into law, trampling on multiple rights including free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, the right to keep and bear arms, states' rights and equal protection. Those who dissent are targeted and often held up as examples as a warning to others what will happen to them if they engage in the same type of behavior. Senior Taliban leaders recently said the harsh application of sharia law during their first era of rule in the 1990s was necessary because of the "depravity" and "chaos" that remained from the Soviet occupation.

We see this take place in the U.S. frequently with civil protest. The left went after the J6 protesters heavily handedly, deliberately interpreting their actions in the worst possible light. In contrast, the "civil disobedience" of Antifa and BLM, burning down buildings and looting, was largely ignored because it was activism on the left. The J6 protesters were treated like violent felons, even though it was clear most of them were naive, not realizing the police officers waving them into the U.S. Capitol didn't really mean to. Many were jailed for months without trials for non-violent offenses.

The Taliban executes gays. So it was no surprise when the left came after gay conservative #WalkAway founder Brandon Straka extra harshly over J6, threatening to put him in prison for years with multiple felonies if he did not plead guilty to the misdemeanor offense of disorderly conduct. First time criminal offenders charged with disorderly conduct rarely get prosecuted, especially in this era with big blue cities like Washington D.C. no longer putting significant resources into prosecuting misdemeanors. Straka didn't even enter the Capitol or engage in violence, prosecutors merely cited his statements. No doubt they were angry he gave a speech at the rally. He still must complete three years of probation and pay a \$5,500 fine. He avoided posting on social media for an entire year during the prosecution, due to the threats of escalating the prosecution.

The left cracks down on the pro-life movement, which is predominantly led by women. They are prosecuting them for not complying precisely with artificially carved out laws and legal interpretations regarding protests outside abortion clinics. People were shocked around the world to hear about a woman in the UK who was arrested last month for merely praying

silently near an abortion clinic.

The Taliban treats women as inferior, similar to how the left treats women as if they are constantly at risk for sexual assault, unable to defend themselves using a firearm or lacking the ability to compete academically on merit alone. They have instituted affirmative action and quotas everywhere as if women are incompetent in education, employment and entertainment. The Taliban has kept some women employed in government as tokenism, to create the illusion of equality. Some of them are forced to sign in to their jobs but then sent home.

Similarly, the left puts women in do-gooder, feel-good positions of relative low worth. Instead of challenging and rewarding types of jobs, the left herds women toward “Karen” types of employment. First they encourage them to major in Gender Studies and other degrees that are mostly worthless. Then they usher them into positions like affirmative action coordinator and gender identity specialist. They will be disliked by many holding those positions, not likely to gain much self-worth in them, constantly reminded of their alleged inferiority.

When the Taliban allows women to attend school, they are segregated by sex. Similarly, the left is increasingly promoting all-female schools and classes. Men report horrible experiences attempting to major in Women’s Studies or attend one of those types of classes. Just like the Taliban, the left overly emphasizes the differences between the two genders, artificially increasing the divide and hostility between the sexes.

The Taliban discriminates against religious and ethnic minorities. The left has been moving in that direction for years. They are trying to stamp out the Christian religion with legislation, gloating as Christianity dwindles. Breathless headlines blare every time a new study comes out showing fewer identify as Christians or attend church. A September 2022 survey dominated the news for days, which asserted that Christianity could become a minority religion as soon as 2045.

The left reserves some of its cruelest vengeance for conservative blacks and other ethnic minorities. It’s become a common theme. Many are blatantly arrogant about the status quo, like President Joe Biden, who told Charlamagne tha God, “If you have a problem figuring out whether you’re for me or Trump, then you ain’t black.” Politically motivated prosecutors under the Obama DOJ went after Dinesh D’Souza for an election violation that would have been handled civilly for anyone else, putting him in prison.

The left is using the government to crack down on opposition and dissent just like the Taliban, it’s just not as overt or drastic; there are no executions or hands chopped off. Instead, the left comes after people with bogus prosecutions and creates Orwellian new rules and laws to restrict their behavior. The rights of conservatives are trampled on with these laws, while the left is free to do what it wishes, because it’s renamed its authoritarianism to “doing good.”

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2.1.24 Karine Jean-Pierre Just Proved the White House Is Anything But Transparent (2023-01-16 23:02)

Last week, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) introduced a bill that was so absurd it had people asking if it was real. As evidenced by its page on congress.gov, and also given the kind of member that Jackson Lee is, it is in fact real.

The bill in question, H.R. 61, also known as the "Leading Against White Supremacy Act of 2023," seeks to "amend title 18, United States Code, to expand the scope of hate crimes." It would criminalize the "conspiracy to commit white supremacy," that is directed against non-white people.

This includes "inspir[ing]" or influencing people to commit such a crime based on having "published material advancing white supremacy, white supremacist ideology, antagonism based on "replacement theory", or hate speech that vilifies or is otherwise directed against any non-White person or group." Material published on social media platforms is mentioned as well.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee has introduced a House Bill to criminalize "conspiracy to commit white

supremacy,” which includes any criticism of non-white people that influences (such as something published or said online) someone who commits a hate crime. <https://t.co/QD93bVJmA9pic.twitter.com/ROwLtvYlha>

— Ian Miles Cheong (@stillgray) January 15, 2023

While the bill’s text mentions the Department of Justice (DOJ), the DOJ website already has a section on “HATE CRIME PROSECUTIONS.” The role of the DOJ is also relevant and potentially concerning in that the Biden administration has reportedly pressured the FBI to over inflate the amount of domestic terror cases and incidents of white supremacy.

This bill isn’t likely to go anywhere in a House now controlled by the Republican Party, though it still speaks to the priorities of members like Rep. Jackson Lee.

Our friends at Twitchy highlighted some of the best responses to Ian Miles Cheong’s screenshot of the bill, including when it comes to concerns with the First Amendment. Further, other users have wondered what it means when attacks on blacks, such as black conservatives, don’t come from white people as a matter of “white supremacy,” but from other black people.

Who wants to tell her about the First Amendment? <https://t.co/FF0QUQsBg6>

— Harmeet K. Dhillon (@pnjaban) January 16, 2023

Should this kind of bill be prohibited? I think so. It harms political discussion and presentation of results. Not to mention it is unconstitutional and that’s the end of the question.

— Phil Pedrosa (@TheRealPedrosa) January 16, 2023

The First Amendment is really difficult when you’re as absolutely stupid as Rep. Lee.

— President Doctor (@LDreeniatnuom) January 15, 2023

Boy have I gotta long list of people who ain’t gonna like that bill if its consequences are applied across-the-board. [pic.twitter.com/U6npfUcEdb](https://t.co/U6npfUcEdbpic.twitter.com/U6npfUcEdb)

— Mark Ashworth (@marklarflash) January 16, 2023

The congresswoman has responded to criticisms about the law by hitting back at a fellow member, Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO). In a thread that includes over a dozen tweets, Rep. Jackson Lee sought to try to defend her bill, and brought the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy into the discussion.

While Jackson Lee strongly mocks Boebert’s description of the bill, it’s worth reminding that another person who has pointed to concerns about the First Amendment include Harmeet K. Dhillon, who is an attorney.

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For starters, it took me about 32 seconds of reading the article you cited to understand that none of you know what you are talking about. H.R. 61 simply deals with adding white supremacy to a list of reasons to be convicted of a hate crime.

— Sheila Jackson Lee (@JacksonLeeTX18) January 16, 2023

Your argument **assumes** that only white people can hold white supremacist views and that only certain groups of people can perpetrate violence motivated by white supremacy.

— Sheila Jackson Lee (@JacksonLeeTX18) January 16, 2023

If so, are you going to deny that white supremacy played a role in the Charlottesville attack when Nazi-sympathizers belched “Jews will not replace us?” Who is “us?”

— Sheila Jackson Lee (@JacksonLeeTX18) January 16, 2023

And then, are you going to deny that the Trump-appointed Director of the FBI testified in March 2021 under oath, under penalty of perjury, that white supremacy was the greatest domestic terror threat facing our country in the Senate Judiciary committee hearing, March 2nd, 2021?

— Sheila Jackson Lee (@JacksonLeeTX18) January 16, 2023

Yes, white supremacy should be added to this law. Why? Because as Director Wray testified, it’s a major domestic terrorist threat.

— Sheila Jackson Lee (@JacksonLeeTX18) January 16, 2023

Now let me be clear, I’d be happy to sit down with you to explain the importance of this legislation.

— Sheila Jackson Lee (@JacksonLeeTX18) January 16, 2023

Now let me be clear, I’d be happy to sit down with you to explain the importance of this legislation.

— Sheila Jackson Lee (@JacksonLeeTX18) January 16, 2023

With that being said, I hope we can all now honor Dr. King’s legacy together.

— Sheila Jackson Lee (@JacksonLeeTX18) January 16, 2023

2.1.25 The New House Homeland Security Committee Chair Already Has the Left Enraged (2023-01-16 23:07)

Rep. Mark Green (R-Tenn.) has been tapped as the new chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security, and even though the new Congress has barely gotten started, he already has the censorious Left up in arms. Newsweek reported last Monday that Trump nominated Green to be Secretary of the Army, but “he ended up withdrawing his nomination from consideration for the role in 2017 after coming under fire for past comments about members of the LGBTQ community, particularly transgender people.” It seems that Green said: “If you poll the psychiatrists, they’re going to tell you transgender is a disease.” Horror of horrors! Everyone can see that men who think they’re women and vice versa are as sane and well-adjusted as the day is long. And now it has come to light that Green has violated Leftist pieties in another way as well: he has a history of making “anti-Muslim comments.”

The HuffPo sounded the alarm on this Thursday, doing its level best to portray Green as a racist, redneck yahoo. HuffPo claimed that Green, whom it identified as “a physician, Iraq War veteran and former GOP state senator,” that is, just the sort of person Leftists abhor, once said “that Iraqis smelled like ‘curry mixed with sweat.’” Sabina Mohyuddin of the American Muslim Advisory Council fumed: “If you hold stereotypes about communities, how can you effectively move on issues that are really nuanced and require a greater understanding of the issues?”

However, Rachel Del Guidice, Green’s communications director, shot back that “some media outlets cut and spliced” what Green said, and added: “Rep. Green has not, and will not ever, force his religion on anyone. He believes that every American has a right to defend their country. Having served three tours of duty overseas during the War on Terror, Rep. Green acted as a steadfast protector of everyone in this nation. Vilifying people of faith because they don’t agree with progressive policies is against America’s founding principles — the very principles he fought to protect.”

The HuffPo, however, wasn’t done. It claimed also that Green “once said he didn’t want students in Tennessee to learn about Islam.” This came up at a Tea Party meeting in 2016, “when an audience member read a passage from a textbook that correctly stated that Muslims believe in all the prophets in the Old and New Testament,” and Green replied, “When you start teaching the pillars of Islam ... we will not tolerate that in this state.” According to the HuffPo, Green went on to say that “if students did have to learn about Islam...they should only learn ‘the history of the Ottoman Empire’ and ‘the assault of Islam out into the Levant and North Africa and into Constantinople.’”

You see? He’s ignorant as well as racist! And so Sumayyah Waheed of Muslim Advocates, which the HuffPo says is a “national civil rights group based in Washington, D.C.,” declared: “Rep. Green’s well-documented history of hate speech against Muslims, LGBTQ people, and immigrants made him unfit to be Secretary of the Army, and that history makes him unfit to chair the House Homeland Security Committee. As chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, Mark Green is a threat to Muslims — especially to those that live at the intersections of the communities he has gleefully attacked for political gain.”

Related: Lefty Rag Says 'Islamophobia' Is Worse Than Ever, So Why Is It So Hard to Find Any?

But the HuffPo, true to form, doesn't bother to tell you that what Green was actually talking about was his opposition to Islamic proselytizing and indoctrination in public schools, which has been abundantly documented. Green was pushing back against the whitewashed version of Islam that is taught in all too many public school textbooks around the country, but of course the HuffPo doesn't give you even a hint that there was ever a controversy over the way Islam was taught in public school textbooks.

The only thing that could legitimately be seen as offensive is his alleged statement that Iraqis smelled like "curry mixed with sweat," although to jump from there to the claim that he is a "threat to Muslims" is beyond ridiculous. It's certainly impolite, at the very least, to say it, but I'm sure Americans smell like all sorts of strange things to non-Americans, too, and HuffPo is making a big deal out of a pungent quip in order to try to defame and destroy Green.

This is, of course, how the "Islamophobia" industry always operates: quotes without context given the worse possible spin, no explanation or rebuttal allowed, and demonstrably true statements presented as not only false, but offensive. These gutter tactics have worked wonderfully well for the Left in the past, but people are beginning to wake up. Green may not lose his chairmanship over these remarks; if he doesn't, that may be an indication that the new House leadership really does have some spine.

2.1.26 Los Angeles Descends Into Insanity (2023-01-16 23:09)

Oh, what a blessing it is to be retired from the Los Angeles Police Department.

I am proud of the career I had with the LAPD, which spanned more than 30 years, beginning in the early 1980s. It was an era when, though there were many times we asked ourselves, "Who are these morons we're working for?" was not yet marked by the genuine insanity that afflicts so many currently serving in city government and the upper ranks of the department.

"Insanity, Dunphy?" you ask. "Isn't that a bit harsh?"

Not at all. Consider all of the following: As discussed in my previous column, the LAPD has been blistered with criticism over its recent encounters with three men, two of whom were shot to death after threatening officers with weapons. The third, after causing a multi-car traffic collision, was running around in a busy intersection and raving incoherently. He was tased and subdued, but for reasons yet to be disclosed, he died several hours later at a hospital. A blood test revealed he had been using cocaine and marijuana.

As is its wont, the Los Angeles Times has led the condemnation of the officers involved in these incidents and of the LAPD in general, beginning with an editorial on Jan. 13. The same day, the Times ran what purports to be a news story that ran under the headline, "LAPD's repeated tasing of teacher who died appears excessive, experts say."

In reading any news story, most especially those in the Los Angeles Times, one must be

cautious in evaluating the qualifications of those presented as experts. As any litigator knows, one can find an “expert” to testify to almost anything. The first expert cited in the Times story is Ed Obayashi, who according to his website is a deputy sheriff and policy advisor for the Plumas County Sheriff’s Office in California. Plumas County has a population of about 18,000, most of them living in a handful of small towns in and around the Plumas National Forest. Whatever expertise Obayashi may have in using force against drug-addled suspects, its unlikely he gained it through personal experience.

The Times’s next so-called expert is Walter Katz, who makes his living in police oversight but has no experience as an officer. (Katz takes exception to having his expertise questioned; he blocked me on Twitter when I posed a simple question about something he had posted.) Another is Timothy T. Williams, who, despite having served a long career with the LAPD, would seem to have little practical experience in use-of-force issues. Williams’s C.V. indicates he spent most of his career as a detective, with at most four years of street patrol experience as a police officer and none as a field supervisor. And the street experience he did have came before the LAPD began using Tasers. I doubt Williams has ever witnessed a Taser deployment, let alone used one himself.

Also presented in the Times as an expert is Carl Douglas, a civil rights attorney who owes what we may assume to be a handsome living to suing police departments. It should come as no surprise that he found fault with the officers’ actions.

Though lacking in actual experience on use-of-force questions, at least these four men have been involved in police oversight or litigation. Lacking any shred of expertise on police issues are newly elected L.A. city council members Eunisses Hernandez and Katy Yaroslavsky, the latter of whom tweeted Sunday, “Bending the arc of the moral universe towards justice means fighting for a world in which Keenan Anderson is not tased to death by the very officers sworn to protect his life.” Despite the tweet being factually incorrect and morally obtuse, it was retweeted by Hernandez, a self-described “prison abolitionist” who was endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America.

LAPD chief Michel Moore can claim abundant police experience, having served with the LAPD for more than 40 years. What he lacks, sadly, is the courage to speak out on behalf of his officers when ignorant politicians and ideologically blinkered newspaper writers distort the facts of a police use of force. Moore is lobbying to be appointed to a second five-year term as chief, and he has recently demonstrated an even greater degree of pliability in yielding to the reigning leftism at City Hall. Following the three recent deaths, Moore took the unusual step of holding a press conference to express his “concerns” about the involved officers’ actions. One suspects what most concerns Moore at the moment is his continuing employment at a yearly base pay of \$377,508.

To that end, after receiving a single complaint, last week Moore banned the display of Thin Blue Line flags in any public area of police facilities, saying that the flags have been “hijacked” by extremist groups to “symbolize their undemocratic, racist, and bigoted views.”

One must wonder how the man can walk upright with a spine so manifestly weak.

With all of this in mind, coupled with the all-out assault on America’s police officers since the death of George Floyd in 2020, it should surprise no one that the LAPD is having trouble replenishing its ranks. The department is about 500 officers short of its authorized

strength, and in its desperation to boost staffing it is trying to lure back recently retired officers.

I can predict with confidence the effort will fall short of its aims. Morale in the LAPD has never been lower, and most officers within sight of retirement are counting the days as a prisoner would to his release date. Having once escaped the disaster the department has become, who in his right mind would return to it?

Los Angeles may be run by lunatics, but is any retired cop crazy enough to want to work for them again?

2.1.27 Andrew McCabe Calls on Biden's DOJ to Obstruct GOP's Classified Documents Probe (2023-01-16 23:13)

On Friday afternoon, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) announced an investigation into Joe Biden's mishandling of classified documents, some of which were labeled top secret. Andrew McCabe, the disgraced former FBI deputy director and current CNN senior law enforcement analyst, promptly urged the Biden Justice Department to obstruct that investigation.

"Chairman Jim Jordan announced this House Judiciary Committee investigation into the DOJ actions related to the President's handling of the classified documents today," explained CNN anchor Anderson Cooper on Friday night. "How much does that impact the DOJ ongoing investigation?"

"I certainly would advise them — if they were willing to listen to my advice — I would advise them to take a very hard line against that," McCabe said. "There is a clear precedent here of not sharing information from an ongoing criminal investigation with Congress. And I think the DOJ is in a very strong position to resist on those grounds."

"Who knows what comes of that resistance?" McCabe continued. "Maybe DOJ leadership starts getting subpoenaed. And ultimately, that fight will end up in the courts. And that could drag things out. That's going to be an additional distraction to DOJ. But it shouldn't disrupt the actual conduct of the investigation. So, that's a — it'll be a separate but related set of stressors the DOJ has to deal with."

For our VIPs: Yes, Merrick Garland Has Politicized the Department of Justice

Of course, there's no reason to believe the Biden administration wasn't going to obstruct this investigation anyway, since they've already been obstructing investigations. But, boy, what chutzpah for McCabe to suggest that the administration's investigation of Biden should supersede the GOP's.

Obama and his administration fought and obstructed every investigation into its scandals, and the Biden administration will do the same. They've been using Obama's playbook from the start, and they will make the Obama administration's constant attempts to block the inquests look like child's play.

The Biden DOJ can't be trusted to conduct a fair investigation of Joe Biden. But the

Obama administration pulled that stunt too — several times — and always vindicated itself. McCabe knows the Biden administration won't hold Biden or anyone else accountable, which is why he wants the administration to block the GOP's investigation — because he knows Jim Jordan will.

2.1.28 Woke Law Requires Prosecutors to Drop 69% of Criminal Cases In NYC (2023-01-22 00:42)

New York City is amongst some of the top crime-ridden places in the U.S., thanks to soft-on-crime policies and Democrat-run leaders.

A new law is forcing prosecutors to release suspects, putting them back on the street sans consequences, only making the city's crime problem heighten.

According to a new study obtained by the New York Post, 69 percent of criminal cases were dropped due to justice "reforms."

In 2019, the year new "discovery" rules were adopted by state lawmakers, 44 percent of cases were dismissed, rising to 69 percent by mid-October 2021, according to the Manhattan Institute.

For misdemeanor cases, the rate increased from 49 percent to 82 percent during the same period.

This as New York City crime rates shot up to record levels in just the last two years.

“In New York City, adult felony arrests fell by 14 percent between 2019 and 2021, while NYC shootings rose by 102 percent and murders rose by over 51 percent,” the study noted.

The study blamed the impending “clerical burden” prosecutors face who have to “assemble and redact limitless...documents and videos” for defense lawyers as part of the process known as “discovery.”

With the state’s “speedy trial” laws, assistant district attorneys “run out of time to try cases or file motions to extend defendants’ detention.”

The law is also related to bail reform policies, which allow criminals to walk free.

Additionally, the study found that 40 percent of ADA’s have quit since the discovery law took effect, crippling the justice system.

However, New York’s progressive Governor, Kathy Hochul (D-NY) claims that data does not support the idea that bail reform is the root problem.

One Twitter user expressed their opinion saying that “NYC needs another Giuliani to clean house.”

2.1.29 Republicans Introduce ‘UNBORN’ Act to ‘Undo the Negligent Biden Orders Right Now’ (2023-01-22 00:43)

On the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, nearly 90 House Republicans introduced legislation to put an end to the Democrat’s radical pro-abortion agenda.

Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA) and 88 other House Republicans came forth with a bill that would block and defund President Joe Biden’s pro-abortion executive orders as thousands of pro-life people march for the sanctity of life.

“At every turn, the Biden Administration has advanced the evils of abortion — subverting the will of the American people, circumventing the Constitution, and undermining the integrity of our nation’s highest court,” Clyde said in a statement to Breitbart News, adding “Congress must take action to protect the precious unborn and prevent taxpayer dollars from funding the Left’s abhorrent abortion agenda.”

The UNBORN Act, which stands for “Undo the Negligent Biden Orders Right Now,” will work to shut down Biden’s order that put unborn babies’ lives at risk.

Since taking office, Biden has implemented several executive orders, directing the Department of Justice and Health and Human Services to fight Republicans who attempt to restrict women’s access to abortion services including medication that induces a miscarriage and the travel across state lines to receive the procedure.

Pro-life groups such as Heritage Action and Catholic Vote have voiced their support for Clyde’s legislation.

The legislation was introduced as people from all across the country walked to protect unborn babies' rights and fight against the Left's normalization of abortion.

However, this year marchers will walk to Congress rather than the Supreme Court to demand pro-life legislation.

As people gather to oppose abortion, Vice President Kamala Harris traveled to Florida's capitol, Gov. Ron DeSantis's (R-Fla) turf, to rally abortion supporters and explain the need for Congress to codify the protections of Roe v. Wade into law.

2.1.30 About One Piece Sales... (2023-01-22 00:52)

Looking Rate at which one piece is selling, I think it won't be in top 5 this year and it seems like the popularity of the series is dropping. With these number of sales it won't pass superman and become the best selling coming. Since, popularity is dropping Oda will be in a hurry to finish the series. I always thought one piece popularity in japan will shield the series becoming like bleach. But, I am not so sure any more. Even, demon slayer is selling more that one piece which has already finished. So, going by sales performance in last few years of one piece, I don't think they will be a bump in sales. I think will truly end before 2024. Due to, the amount of length, there will be a less can of rise in popularity. In conclusion, One piece will not be as popular as bleach, naruto, dragon ball, MHA, and alot of show which are popular in rest of the world. Let's be prepared for a fast paced story after wano county arc.

2.1.31 One Piece's Most Unexpected Dark Turns (2023-01-22 01:03)

[1]One Piece is celebrated for its vibrance and humor, which makes the [2]moments it gets dark all the more shocking. From physical to psychological abuse, these dark

elements are not subtle and make a huge impact. With the manga around two-thirds completed and the latest arcs only increasing the darkness, it's only a question of how much more ominous *One Piece* can be. Here are the darkest parts of *One Piece*'s story so far.

Kuma's Painful Cyborg Transformation

For unknown reasons, Bartholomew Kuma decides to offer himself as a human guinea pig for war experiments that slowly strip him of his core being, one modification at a time. It can be assumed he found the exchange worth sacrificing his humanity and free will, but the end results are cruel nonetheless.

Kuma becomes a mindless toy slave-for-rent for the Celestial dragons – accumulating heedless damage and abuse. While he does not feel any pain because he is figuratively dead, it is a mockery to those who still care about him.

Labor Camps & Slave Labor at Tequila Wolf

Tequila Wolf is a layered monument symbolizing centuries of the World Government's greed and corruption. Entire generations of enslaved people wasted their lives and dreams laboring on a Sisyphean task in the brutal conditions of a forced labor camp. Escape was futile for the longest time, and even after liberation, a chance at a happy life will be a constant struggle for the formerly enslaved.

Cipher Pol: Human Trafficking, Child Assassins & Rob Lucci

The World Government is an insidious institution, and from Mother Caramel, viewers know that they traffick orphan children to become Marine soldiers or Cipher Pol assassins. It's unknown if Lucci joined CP9 this way, but he and other CP9 agents received rigorous and inhumane physical training since childhood.

Their minds are molded to abandon mercy or morals. This is exemplified in one of Lucci's childhood missions. When a pirate crew kidnaps 500 soldiers as hostages, Lucci slaughters everyone — [3]pirates and hostages alike — because he believes being captured is a sign of weakness.

Nami's Enslavement to Arlong

The revelation of Nami's backstory marks the point *One Piece* shows how it can handle tears and heartache. [4]Arlong holds her village hostage and kills her adoptive mother Bell-mère in front of her eyes when she's eight. Nami agrees to join Arlong's crew in a deal equivalent to slavery to raise enough money to buy back her village.

When the money she raised is confiscated by a corrupt Marine and the villagers rise against Arlong, Nami tries to stop them in vain. Alone and desperate, she repeatedly stabs her arm until Luffy stops her, and she pleads for his help.

The Tragic Night in Dressrosa

[5]Doflamingo's

parasite abilities control King Riku and various soldiers like stringed puppets to attack and kill innocent civilians. What's worse is that each controlled individual is lucid, wrecking psychological torture as they lay witness to their bodies betraying them and betraying the people they swore to protect. On the same night of Doflamingo's takeover, Kyros is struck with tragedies, one after another.

Not only does Sugar turn him into a toy soldier, but she also imparts true death on him as anyone acquainted with him forgets his existence. The true severity of this is demonstrated when he witnesses his wife's death. As a toy, he is unable to feel her warmth, cry or grieve properly as the love of his life failed to recognize him and died in his arms.

Brook's 50 Years of Isolation

Although Brook's [6]Devil Fruit has resurrection abilities, they doomed him to a life worse than death. Before being stranded at sea, Brook lost half his crew and captain due to an incurable disease and the other half when enemies attacked with poison-coated weapons. Sending off his crew the only way he can, Brook plays Binks' Sake as his comrades die one-by-one until he succumbs to the poison and dies as well.

When he revives, he returns to the ship as a skeleton and lays his crew's remains to rest underdeck. Brook then lives in solitude for 50 years with memories of his crewmates as his only comfort or to haunt his dreams.

Gory Deaths in the Summit War Arc

This arc shifted the tone of *One Piece* with the deaths of [7]Ace and Whitebeard. Whitebeard's death has to be one of the series most gory deaths, dying standing with 267 sword-inflicted wounds, 152 gunshots, 46 cannon explosions and half his face and internal organs blazed by Akainu. If that wasn't enough tragedy, Ace sacrifices himself to protect Luffy as Akainu burns a hole in Ace's chest.

Even with the Marines' goals accomplished, they continued to pursue a fight that needlessly sacrificed more soldiers and senseless bloodshed until Shanks put an end to it.

The Crucifixion of Nekomamushi and Inuarashi

To extrapolate information about Raizo, Jack of the Beast Pirates unleashes Caesar's poison gas to massacre the vulnerable Mink tribe in Zou while their leaders — Nekomamushi, Inuarashi and other strong warriors — are crucified. In a hellish experience for the Zou tribe, screams of death echo throughout the country. Despite the [8]torture, lost limbs and lost comrades, Nekomamushi and Inuarashi selflessly never reveal any information.

Wano: A Dystopian Society Masked with Flowers

The currently-ongoing Wano Arc is the darkest *One Piece* has ever been. With Orochi's tyrannical rule, average citizens are either poisoned slowly by pollution or starved to death, leading to desperate measures such as mothers willing to kill their infants. In addition to these dark elements, *One Piece* once again shocks viewers with some grisly executions and revelations.

Cornered into starvation and destitution, the villagers of Ebisu had little choice but to consume defective [9]SMILE fruits that robbed their ability to express any emotion other than laughter and smiles. The twisted irony is most poignant when they are compelled to laugh at Yasuie's death in a public execution when a firing squad shoots him an inhumane number of times.

In another horrid execution, Oden's executed after being boiled alive for one hour before a gunshot to the head ends his life. With more deaths and betrayals, the Wano Arc continues to throw viewers in for a shocking loop.

The Destruction and Genocide of Felavance, Ohara & the Grey Terminal

The greatest atrocities present in the anime is genocide organized by or for the World Government. They destroyed Ohara to censor the truth about [10]Poneglyphs.

They allowed the citizens of Flevance to poison themselves as long as they gained profit from its budding amber lead industry. And the Gao Kingdom set fire to its Gray Terminal, a warren of junk and the homeless, to impress a World Noble.

No matter how innocent or harmless, the government has no qualm exterminating any inconvenience to their objectives, a truth all too relatable in real life.

1. <https://www.cbr.com/tag/one-piece/>
 2. <https://www.cbr.com/great-anime-with-tonal-shifts-dark-turns/>
 3. <https://www.cbr.com/one-piece-chapter-1001-spoilers-kaido-luffy-strongest-characters/>
 4. <https://www.cbr.com/one-piece-genius-of-the-arlong-park-arc/>
 5. <https://www.cbr.com/doflamingo-one-piece-flamboyant-character-fiercest-foe/>
 6. <https://www.cbr.com/one-piece-bad-devil-fruit-powers/>
 7. <https://www.cbr.com/one-piece-chapter-999-spoilers-ace-yamato-friendship/>
 8. <https://www.cbr.com/the-queen-of-black-magic-review/>
 9. <https://www.cbr.com/one-piece-smile-fruit-joker-toxin/>
 10. <https://www.cbr.com/one-piece-chapter-996-spoilers-traffic-law-road-poneglyphs/>
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2.1.32 Why One Piece is losing popularity (2023-01-22 01:06)

I've been keeping an eye on the manga sales now for a fair few years and been making a general note of it. The sales pretty much exploded with the Whitebeard War arc, the popularity of the Strong World movie and then the Time Skip but it's been declining almost continually for a while now.

So all these sales are the total sales after the fifth week the volume was on sale.

Vol 52 - 1.59 million
Vol 55 - 1.69 million
Vol 60 - 2.59 million
Vol 65 - 2.89 million
Vol 70 - 2.71 million
Vol 75 - 2.56 million

Vol 80 - 2.70 million
Vol 85 - 2.40 million
Vol 90 - 1.95 million
Vol 95 - 1.72 million
Vol 96 - 1.63 million

As it stands, Vol 96 is actually the lowest selling volume since Vol 52 which was 12 years ago. Digital sales need to be taken into account and they are very slowly increasing over time but apparently still make up a small fraction of the overall sales.

Even though it's gone down over time, there was a uptick during the final battle with Luffy and Doflamingo but then as soon as that arc ended there was a very sudden drop. It then slowly declined again until there was another drop with this Wano arc but now instead of declining slowly it's actually dropping quite quickly.

Each volume has sold 100,000 copies less after the same amount of time now since Vol 92. So maybe people aren't liking the current arc at all.

2.1.33 What Putin Has Said About Russia Taking Back Alaska (2023-01-25 20:53)

Russian officials have recently made statements threatening to reclaim Alaska, which the U.S. bought from Russia in 1867, but it's possible President Vladimir Putin isn't interested.

In 2014, during his annual Q &A with Russian citizens, Putin was asked about taking back the territory. Questioner Faina Ivanovna told him it's something Russians "would be very happy to see happen."

"Why do you need Alaska?" Putin responded, according to The Washington Post. "By the way, Alaska was sold sometime in the 19th century. Louisiana was sold to the United States by the French at about the same time. Thousands of square kilometers were sold for \$7.2 million, although in gold." He called the purchase "inexpensive" and said people should "not get worked up about" Alaska. Russian state-TV host Kirill Kleymentov told Putin the state is jokingly referred to as "Ice Crimea."

Years later, two Russian officials are once again floating the idea of returning Alaska to Russia. Vyacheslav Volodin, an ally of Putin and chairman of the State Duma, said Russia could reclaim the territory in response to heavy sanctions imposed by the U.S. and its NATO and European Union allies in response to the Ukrainian invasion.

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"When they [U.S. lawmakers] attempt to appropriate our assets abroad, they should be aware that we also have something to claim back," Volodin said during a Wednesday meeting with Russian officials, according to the Associated Press.

Vladimir Putin Comments on Alaska

Russian officials have recently made statements threatening to reclaim Alaska, but in 2014

President Vladimir Putin dismissed the idea. Above, Putin speaks during his talks with Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the Kremlin on June 30. Getty Images

Volodin previously suggested that Moscow could seize the Russian assets of “hostile” countries in retaliation for a U.S. proposal to sell off seized Russian oligarchs’ assets to rebuild Ukraine, according to The Moscow Times.

Noting that a deputy speaker had proposed holding a referendum among Alaskans on joining Russia, Volodin told the Duma on Wednesday, “We don’t interfere in their domestic affairs,” holding back laughter following applause, the Times reported.

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Ukraine Destroys 35 Russian Tanks in a Single Day, Kyiv Forces Say

On Thursday, Volodin also took parting shots at departing U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who stepped down this week after a wave of scandals but was viewed as a strong ally of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

“The clown is going,” Volodin said, according to U.S. News & World Report. “He is one of the main ideologues of the war against Russia until the last Ukrainian. European leaders should think about where such a policy leads.”

Billboards reading “Alaska Is Ours!” were spotted Thursday, reported NGS24, a news agency in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk. They are not believed to have been erected by Russian authorities but instead by “some patriot,” a restaurateur in the city said.

Russians may have first reached Alaska in the 1600s, with regular commercial fur-trapping expeditions between the territory and Siberia beginning in the 1740s.

In his only public comment on Russian threats against his state, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy linked to an MSN article about Volodin and wrote a pithy tweet on Thursday. “To the Russian politicians who believe they can take back Alaska: Good luck,” he said.

2.1.34 Oh, So Mike Pence Had Classified Documents Too (2023-01-25 20:54)

As more and more classified documents are discovered in President Biden’s Wilmington home, it turns out more than just Biden and former President Trump took sensitive materials from their respective vice presidential and presidential offices.

On Tuesday, CNN broke the news that former Vice President Mike Pence also had some classified documents, a fact he informed Congress of on Tuesday, found at his home in Indiana on January 16. Pence had “about a dozen” classified documents from his time as VP, and

subsequently turned them over to the FBI.

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New via CNN: A lawyer for former Vice President Mike Pence discovered about a dozen documents marked as classified at Pence's Indiana home last week, and he has turned those classified records over to the FBI.

— Hugo Lowell (@hugolowell) January 24, 2023

As CNN explained in its report based on "sources" —

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The classified documents were discovered at Pence's new home in Carmel, Indiana, by a lawyer for Pence in the wake of the revelations about classified material discovered in President Joe Biden's private office and residence, the sources said.

In a twist, Pence had said in previous interviews that he did not have any classified documents in his possession from his four years as VP to Trump.

CNN's report continued:

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Pence asked his lawyer to conduct the search of his home out of an abundance of caution, and the attorney began going through four boxes stored at Pence's house last week, finding a small number of documents with classified markings, the sources said.

Pence's lawyer immediately alerted the National Archives, the sources said. In turn, the Archives informed the Justice Department.

A lawyer for Pence told CNN that the FBI requested to pick up the documents with classified markings that evening, and Pence agreed. Agents from the FBI's field office in Indianapolis picked up the documents from Pence's home, the lawyer said.

On Monday, Pence's legal team drove the boxes back to Washington, DC, and handed them over to the Archives to review the rest of the material for compliance with the Presidential Records Act.

In a letter to the National Archives obtained by CNN, Pence's representative to the Archives Greg Jacob wrote that a "small number of documents bearing classified markings" were inadvertently boxed and transported to the vice president's home.

As Pence's representative to the Archives Greg Jacob explained to CNN, "Vice President

Pence was unaware of the existence of sensitive or classified documents at his personal residence. Vice President Pence understands the high importance of protecting sensitive and classified information and stands ready and willing to cooperate fully with the National Archives and any appropriate inquiry,” Jacob added.

It’s worth noting that Pence, unlike Biden, made the discovery public almost immediately, whereas Biden withheld the information from the American people from early November before the 2022 midterms until the story finally broke via a leak to mainstream outlets.

In a post on Truth Social Tuesday afternoon, President Trump defended his VP. “Mike Pence is an innocent man,” Trump said. “He never did anything knowingly dishonest in his life. Leave him alone!!!”

2.1.35 Who’s More Irrational — The Religious or the Irreligious? (2023-01-25 20:56)

There are very few things conservatives, liberals and leftists agree on. But if they are irreligious, they all agree that religious Americans are more irrational than irreligious Americans.

It is a secular axiom that secularism and secular people are rooted in reason, whereas religion and the religious are rooted in irrationality.

This is what almost every college professor believes and what almost every student in America is taught. Among the intelligentsia, it is an unquestioned fact. It helps explain why, after their first or second year at college, many children return to their religious homes alienated from, and frequently contemptuous of, the religion of their parents — and often of the parents themselves.

At the time in their lives when most people are the most easily indoctrinated — approximately ages 18 to 22 — young Americans hear only one message: If you want to be a rational person, you must abandon religion and embrace secularism. Most young Americans are never exposed to a countervailing view at any time in their college life. (That’s why you should expose your college-aged child, grandchild, niece or nephew to this column.)

Yet, this alleged axiom is not only completely false, it’s backwards. The truth is that today the secular have a virtual monopoly on irrational beliefs.

One proof is that colleges have become the most irrational institutions in the country. Not coincidentally, they are also the most secular institutions in our society. In fact, the former is a result of the latter.

One could provide examples in every area of life. Here are but a few.

Only secular people believe “men give birth.”

Only secular people believe that males — providing, of course, that they say they are females — should be allowed to compete in women’s sports.

Only secular people believe that a young girl who says she is a boy or a young boy who

says he is a girl should be given puberty-blocking hormones.

Only secular people believe that girls who say they are boys should have their healthy breasts surgically cut off.

Only secular people believe it is good to have men in drag dance (often provocatively) in front of 5-year-olds.

Only secular people agree with Disney dropping use of the words “boys and girls” at Disneyland and Disneyworld.

Only secular people believe that “to be colorblind is to be racist.” That is what is taught at nearly all secular (and religious-in-name-only) colleges in America today.

Only secular people believe fewer police, fewer prosecutions and lower prison sentences (or no prison time at all) lead to less crime.

Far more secular Americans than religious Americans believed that the Cleveland Indians and Washington Redskins needed to change their names because “Indians” and “Redskins” were racist — despite the fact that most Native Americans didn’t even think so.

Who was more likely to support keeping children out of schools for two years; forcibly masking 2-year olds on airplanes; and firing unvaccinated police officers, airplane pilots and members of the military — secular or religious Americans?

How many Western supporters of Josef Stalin — the tyrant who murdered about 30 million people — were irreligious, and how many were religious?

Stanford University, a thoroughly secular institution, just released an “Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative.” It informs all Stanford faculty and students of “harmful” words they should avoid and the words that should replace them.

Some examples:

Stanford asks its students and faculty not to call themselves “American.” Rather, they should call themselves a “U.S. citizen.” Why? Because citizens of other countries in North America and South America might be offended.

Is that rational?

Stanford asks its faculty and students not to use the term “blind study.” Why? Because it “unintentionally perpetuates that disability is somehow abnormal or negative, furthering an ableist culture.” Instead, Stanford faculty and students should say, “masked study.”

Two questions: Is Stanford’s claim that being blind is not a disability rational or irrational? And what percentage of those who make this claim are secular?

The list of irrational (and immoral) things secular people believe — and religious people do not believe — is very long. As a quote attributed to G.K. Chesterton puts it: “When people stop believing in God, they don’t believe in nothing; they believe in anything.”

Yet, many people believe that the religious, not the secular, are the irrational people in our time. That, ironically, is just another irrational belief held by the secular. And, of course, it is self-serving — just as is the belief that more people have been killed by religious people (meaning, essentially, Christians) than by secular people. Yet, that, too, is irrational — and false. In the last century alone, 100 million people were murdered by secular — and anti-religious — regimes.

Yes, religious people have some irrational, or at least non-rational, beliefs.

But two points need to be made in this regard:

One is that the religious beliefs that most people call “irrational” are not irrational; they are unprovable. For example, the beliefs that there is a transcendent Creator and that this Creator is the source of our rights are not irrational; they are unprovable. Atheism — the belief that everything came from nothing — is considerably more irrational than theism.

The other point is that human beings are programmed to believe in the non-rational. Love is often non-rational — love of our children, romantic love, love of music and art, love of a pet; our willingness to engage in self-sacrifice for another is often non-rational — from the sacrifices children make for parents and parents for children to the sacrifices made by non-Jewish rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust.

What good religion does is provide its adherents with a moral, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually deep way to express the non-rational. Therefore, they can remain rational everywhere outside of religion. The secular, having no religion within which to innocuously express the non-rational, often end up doing so elsewhere in life.

So only the religious believe “In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth,” but they do not believe men give birth. Meanwhile the irreligious don’t believe “In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth,” but only they believe men give birth.

2.1.36 It’s On: McCarthy Formally Blocks Schiff, Swalwell From Intelligence Committee (2023-01-25 20:57)

his article has been updated to include reactions from Reps. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Eric Swalwell (D-CA), and Ilhan Omar (D-MN).

On Tuesday night, just as he has promised for months he would do, Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) formally blocked Reps. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Eric Swalwell (D-CA) from the House Intelligence Committee. Despite McCarthy repeatedly warning he would take such action, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) on Monday nominated the embattled Democratic members to the committee, as they had requested.

McCarthy tweeted out the letter he sent to Jeffries. While his letter did acknowledge “I appreciate the loyalty you have to your Democratic colleagues, and I acknowledge your efforts to have two Members of Congress reinstated to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence,” McCarthy nevertheless reminds Jeffries that allowing Schiff and Swalwell to

serve on the committee is something he cannot do.

“But I cannot put partisan loyalty ahead of national security, and I cannot simply recognize years of serve as the sole criteria for membership on this essential committee. Integrity matters more,” the letter continued with original emphasis.

As Punchbowl News mentioned in its Monday morning newsletter sharing Jeffries’ letter about the committees, Schiff is one of the longest-serving members during its 45-year history. He has served as the committee’s chairman and was looking to be its ranking member.

Towards the closing of his letter, McCarthy also warns of his assessment “that the misuse of this panel during the 116th and 117th Congresses severely undermined the primary national security and oversight missions—ultimately leaving our nation less safe.” McCarthy closes by mentioning his commitment to “returning the Intelligence Committee to one of genuine honesty and credibility that regains the trust of the American people.”

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SPEAKER MCCARTHY TO MINORITY LEADER HAKEEM JEFFRIES:

“I am hereby rejecting the appointments of Representative Adam Schiff and Representative Eric Swalwell to serve on the Intelligence Committee.” pic.twitter.com/eqeGOIY4Q6
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) January 25, 2023

Recommended

TAPES: We Investigated a Suburban LGBTQ Pedophile Ring. Here’s What We Found.
Mia Cathell

McCarthy has not only warned for some time that he would not allow Schiff and Swalwell to serve on the committee, but has given cause. The speaker has listed concerns with an FBI briefing when it comes to Swalwell serving on such a committee, due to his ties to Chinese spy Fang Fang, and how Schiff lied to and misled the American people on the Ukrainian whistleblower and the “Russia collusion” hoax.

“What did Adam Schiff do as the chairman of the Intel Committee,” McCarthy laid out for reporters before going off with a whole list of offenses. “What Adam Schiff did, use his power as the chairman, and lie to the American public—even the Inspector General said it—when [former Rep.] Devin Nunes put out a memo, he said it was false, when we had a laptop he used it before an election to bring politics and say that it was false and say that it was the Russians, when he knew different, when he knew the Intel.”

As he listed out these offenses, McCarthy made clear that Schiff abused his power as chairman, having had information that the rest of the American people did not. “He used his position as chairman, knowing he has information the rest of America does not, and lied to the American public.”

McCarthy also referenced, as he has multiple times in the past, the Ukrainian whistleblower. “When a whistleblower came forward, he said he did not know the individual, even though his staff had met with them and set it up.”

“So no, he does not have a right to sit on that [committee].” Seeking to distinguish himself from Democrats, who when they controlled the 117th Congress, removed Reps. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) from all of their committee assignments, McCarthy offered “so yes, he can serve on a committee, but he will not serve on Intel, ‘cause it goes to the national security of America, and I will always put them first, all right?”

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Speaker McCarthy goes OFF on Adam Schiff in front of reporters:

“No! He does NOT have a right to sit on that [Intelligence Committee]!”

 pic.twitter.com/sczuh6yjjx

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) January 25, 2023

McCarthy has also mentioned a commitment to ensuring Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) does not serve on the the House Foreign Affairs Committee, due to her antisemitism, which her Democratic colleagues have largely downplayed.

Fox News’ Chad Pergram tweeted out reactions from Swalwell, per his colleague Tyler Olson.

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2) Swalwell: It’s too bad because that committee has always been a bipartisan committee, and he’s taking one of the most precious pieces of glassware in the congressional cabinet and smashing it in. The damage is going to be irreparable.

— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) January 25, 2023

4) Swalwell: Boehner was around when this investigation happened, and he kept me on the committee and he reappointed me..So the fact that McCarthy would now try and heat up the leftovers for something that happened nearly a decade ago just shows that is pure political vengeance

— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) January 25, 2023

Pergram later tweeted out more reactions, which came off exactly as you would expect from the three members, who threw out all sorts of charges.

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2) Schiff/Swalwell/Omar on McCarthy: He struck a corrupt bargain in his desperate, and nearly failed, attempt to win the Speakership, a bargain that required political vengeance against the three of us.

— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) January 25, 2023

3) Schiff/Swalwell/Omar: But despite these efforts, McCarthy won't be successful. We will continue to speak out against extremism and doggedly defend our democracy.

— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) January 25, 2023

In the case of Omar's assignment though, the House will need to vote on barring her from serving on the committee. Pergram also tweeted out that it is "Unclear if McCarthy would have the votes" to do so.

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Since the Intelligence Cmte is a "select" cmte, McCarthy can reject mbrs from serving on that panel. However, the full House may need to vote to prospectively block Dem MN Rep Omar from serving on the Foreign Affairs Cmte. Unclear if McCarthy would have the votes for that

— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) January 25, 2023

McCarthy appears to have at least a few defections there. As highlighted by The Hill's Mychael Schnell, Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-IN) released a statement earlier on Tuesday indicating she opposes denying Democratic members their committee assignments. "Two wrongs do not make a right," she began her statement by saying, also later making clear Speaker McCarthy needs to stop "bread and circuses" in Congress and start governing for a change."

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Rep. Spartz issued a statement on proposed committee removals of Democrats without proper due process urging @SpeakerMcCarthy to stop "bread and circuses" in Congress and start governing for a change.

Two wrongs do not make a right. <https://t.co/a6sZhW6V52>

— Rep. Victoria Spartz (@RepSpartz) January 24, 2023

Reps. Don Bacon (R-NE) and David Valadao appear undecided, according to CNN, with Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC) joining Rep. Spartz in her opposition.

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David Valadao tells me he's still undecided on a resolution to boot Omar from the committee. Spartz & Mace already signaled they're a no.

Republicans can only afford to lose four votes. <https://t.co/NJFtCrzDE3>
— Melanie Zanona (@MZanona) January 25, 2023

2.1.37 5 places World War III could start in 2023 (2023-01-25 21:00)



A Ukrainian soldier checks a wrecked Russian tank outside a village east of Kharkiv in April 2022.

SERGEY BOBOK/AFP via Getty Images

- In February 2022, Russia attacked Ukraine, starting the largest clash in Europe since World War II.
- The war has caused global ripples, raising the stakes of disputes that have smoldered for decades.
- These five simmering disputes pose the greatest risk of erupting into "World War III" in 2023.

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A 19FortyFive tradition - we look at where World War III could start as we prepare for 2023.

In [3]2022, the world came closer to Great Power War than at any point since the end of the Cold War.

[4]Russia launched a full-scale [5]invasion of Ukraine, an attack that almost [6]immediately resulted in a combination of sanctions and direct military support for Kyiv.

By early spring, the United States and its allies were pursuing policies that would result in the death of Russian soldiers, the destruction of Russian military equipment, and the long-term degradation of the Russian economy. The war has had a ripple effect on the world stage, dramatically increasing the stakes of disputes that have quietly smoldered for decades.

These five areas pose the greatest risk for the eruption of what we might be tempted to call "World War III."

Ukraine



Ukrainian artillery fires in the Zaporizhzhia Region in December 2022.

Dmytro Smoliyenko / Ukrinform/Future Publishing via Getty Images

Concern that [7]Russia might use nuclear weapons to restore its flagging fortunes in Ukraine seems to have declined since summer, as the war has settled into a destructive stalemate.

However, escalation remains a concern. Russia's inability to make progress may threaten the stability of the Putin government, inclining Moscow to contemplate dangerous escalation. Concerns over the ability of Ukraine to continue the war in the long-term might force Kyiv to take risky steps of its own to break the stalemate.[8]

An expansion of the war to NATO remains unlikely but possible; the Russian use of nuclear weapons remains unthinkable but not at all impossible.

The Biden administration and its allies in Europe have [9]taken extraordinary care with the risks of escalation, but Washington does not hold all of the cards and either Kyiv or Moscow might become willing to accept the risk of a wider conflict, a conflict that could develop into World War III.[10]

Taiwan



Taiwanese troops during an exercise
simulating an attempted amphibious landing by Chinese forces in May
2019.

Kyodo News Stills via Getty Images

Worry about the immediacy of war
between Taiwan and China has waned a bit in the past months, in large
part because of China's catastrophic covid experience.

However, there is little doubt that cross-strait tensions remain significant. The [11]willingness of the Biden administration to take risky rhetorical positions on the defense of Taiwan indicates that Washington has real concern over the prospects of a Chinese attack. At the same time, these statements (and unwise stunts such as Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei) run the risk of triggering Chinese escalation.

Fortunately, there is good reason to believe that we will have some warning of war; as was the case along the Ukrainian border, Chinese preparation for conflict would be glaringly visible to everyone concerned. Almost any imaginable conflict, however, would end up including the United States and [12]very likely Japan, and would thus constitute a great power war.

Greece-Turkey



A Greek tank in a military parade for Greece's Independence Day on March 25, 2018.

Kostas Pikoulas/Pacific Press/LightRocket via Getty Images

Lost in all of the discussion of the revitalization of NATO in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been a simmering crisis on the alliance's southern flank.

Over the past year tensions between Greece and Turkey have increased substantially, driven in large part by Turkey's assertive foreign policy turn and by the [13]domestic vulnerability of the Erdogan regime. Disputes between Athens and Ankara over energy exploration in the Aegean have driven the current tension, although the territorial disagreement underlying the argument have existed for decades.[14]

While it seems unlikely that a NATO ally would openly attack another NATO ally, past conflicts have brought the two countries up to the brink of war (and [15]sometimes slightly beyond) notwithstanding their alliance commitments.

Any fight between Turkey and Greece would immediately involve NATO, and would almost certainly result in some degree of opportunistic intervention by Russia.

Korean Peninsula



A North Korean missile is launched in October 2022.

KCNA via REUTERS

Over the past [16]several months tensions between Seoul and Pyongyang have grown steadily, with North Korean provocations (often themselves driven by the Kim regime's idiosyncratic and cryptic assessments of the international environment) incurring aggressive rhetorical responses from the South.

The dynamic between the two states seems driven by impatience; an impatience in the North that the world still refuses to take it seriously [17] despite its magnificent nuclear weapons, and an impatience in the South that a nation of great significance remains burdened by its inept and retrograde sibling.

These tensions aren't new, but historically they have been constrained by the Cold War and by the post-Cold War liberal international order. The first is gone and the second is fraying, to the extent that Pyongyang may feel like it has a moment and Seoul may struggle to find the patience to tolerate the antics of its neighbor.

If war does break out it could rapidly become more destructive than the Russia-Ukraine War, with conventional and nuclear weapons exacting a horrific toll on both sides.

China-India



A still image from Chinese footage shows Indian and Chinese troops clashing on the Line of Actual Control in the Galwan Valley in June 2020.

CCTV/AFP via Getty Images

Sporadic fighting between China and India continues on the Roof of the World.

Although [18]the real stakes of control over small slivers of territory in nearly uninhabitable mountain terrain remain elusive, neither China nor India have backed away from the conflict. While fighting has thus far remained quite limited, the

desire to defend national prestige can rapidly become poisonous for even the wisest and most sensible leaders.

Whether Modi and Xi fit such a description is a question for another day, but the governments that they lead have not managed to find a way to resolve the conflict.

At

some point either the Indians or the Chinese might be tempted to solve the problem through escalation, a step that could work as intended, or that could open the door to a much larger and more destructive conflict.

Pray World War III never happens



Destroyed apartments in Lyman after the Ukrainian city was recaptured from Russia forces in November 2022.

Metin Aktas/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

It remains unlikely that any of these disputes will develop into a global conflict, although the Ukraine War already has some aspects of great power war.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has, if nothing else, demonstrated that major wars can still happen despite the best efforts of the international community. Maintaining peace requires careful statesmanship; managing escalation during war requires extraordinary skill.

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2. <https://www.businessinsider.com/privacy-policy>
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2.1.38 Omar, Swalwell and Schiff Blame Their Committee Removal On Trying to Hold Trump 'Accountable' (2023-01-30 19:35)

In the wake of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's (R-Calif) promise to remove Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Eric Swalwell (D-Calif), and Adam Schiff (D-Calif) from their committees are blaming the Republican's actions on their attempting to hold former President Trump accountable.

During an interview with MSNBC, Omar said McCarthy's effort at removing her from her committee is an effort to try and "appease Trump."

The liberal squad member claimed that the three of them have been singled out by Trump, and in return, McCarthy is seeking revenge for trying to impeach the former president.

"When I was running for the Minnesota House seat, and Trump was running for president, he came to Minnesota and talked about how Somali refugees should not enter our state.... Marjorie Taylor Greene, after I got sworn in, was in Congress talking about Muslim invasion," Omar said, adding "when you think about Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell, these are two people who have led the impeachment efforts against Trump, who he also singled out. If you think about how these people have been vengeful, this sort of revenge and picking the three of us makes sense."

The Democrat went on to allege that McCarthy was doing nothing but exchanging "dollars in removing duly elected members from the committee that they have a history in."

At the same time, Schiff and Swalwell have also expressed opinions, claiming that McCarthy removed them from the House Intelligence Committee to get back at them for investigating Trump, calling it "petty, political payback."

Speaking with MSNBC's Joy Reid, Swalwell said that McCarthy is coming after them for not "backing down" against Trump, saying "we were fearless in our resolve to hold Donald Trump accountable."

Schiff also responded, posting a video to the Chinese-owned app TikTok, claiming that "Kevin McCarthy removed me from the House Intelligence Committee, all for doing my job, for holding Trump accountable and standing up to the extreme MAGA Republicans."

2.1.39 Brett Kavanaugh Expresses His Opinion Of His Supreme Court Colleagues (2023-01-30 19:36)

Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh gave his thoughts on the incoming freshman, saying that he is “optimistic” about the future of the Supreme Court.

Kavanaugh said that the nine Supreme Court Justices share “great relations both personally and professionally” despite disagreements and the perception that it is divided.

“We only get tough cases, and we disagree on some of those. I think that’s more nuanced than it is sometimes portrayed,” Kavanaugh said, adding that even after every argument and conference, the group eats lunch together becoming friends.

One of the most notable cases, which drew nationwide criticism, was the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in June of last year.

“You can’t talk about work at lunch. So, you talk about the things that you would talk about with your friends. You talk about your kids, you talk about movies, you talk about books, you talk about war stories ... again and again,” Kavanaugh told a group of law students while speaking at the Notre Dame Law school.

The conservative justice went on to praise his liberal colleague, Ketanji Jackson Brown, saying that she is “off to a great start” and is “thoroughly prepared.”

Kavanaugh also praised the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and retired Justice Stephen Breyer for welcoming him to the court after facing allegations of sexual misconduct and assault, which Republicans argued was a “sham.”

He went on to call the unusually long delay in the release of the court’s first opinion of the term due to a “coincidence” concerning “which mix of cases” was argued in October and November.

The court only released its first opinion this week, breaking tradition.

According to court watchers, they believe the reason the court waited to issue an opinion this term was because it was anticipating the release of the investigative report. That report was produced on January 19, with the justices announcing that the Marshal of the court had been unable to identify the person responsible for the leak.

However, Kavanaugh said that there was no connection between the report and the lag in opinions.

The leak of the report caused protests all around the country, with many vandalizing churches and pro-life centers.

2.2 February

2.2.1 Roswell prologue (2023-02-01 22:49)

In 1961, regardless of the differences in the Roswell story from the many different sources who had described it, the top-secret file of Roswell information came into my possession when I took over the Foreign Technology desk at R & D. My boss, General Trudeau, asked me to use the army's ongoing weapons development and research program as a way to filter the Roswell technology into the main stream of industrial development through the military defense contracting program.

Today, items such as lasers, integrated circuitry, fiberoptics networks, accelerated particle beam devices, and even the Kevlar material in bulletproof vests are all commonplace. Yet the seeds for the development of all of them were found in the crash of the alien craft at Roswell and turned up in my files fourteen years later.

But that's not even the whole story.

In those confusing hours after the discovery of the crashed Roswell alien craft, the army determined that in the absence of any other information it had to be an extraterrestrial. Worse, the fact that this craft and other flying saucers had been surveilling our defensive installations and even seemed to evidence a technology we'd seen evidenced by the Nazis caused the military to assume these flying saucers had hostile intentions and might have even interfered in human events during the war.

We didn't know what the inhabitants of these crafts wanted, but we had to assume from their behavior, especially their interventions in the lives of human beings and the reported cattle mutilations, that they could be potential enemies. That meant that we were facing a far superior power with weapons capable of obliterating us. At the same time we were locked in a Cold War with the Soviets and the mainland Chinese and were faced with the penetration of our own intelligence agencies by the KGB.

The military found itself fighting a two-front war, a war against the Communists who were seeking to undermine our institutions while threatening our allies and, as unbelievable as it sounds, a war against extraterrestrials, who posed an even greater threat than the Communist forces. So we used the extraterrestrials' own technology against them, feeding it out to our defense contractors and then adapting it for use in space-related defense systems.

It took us until the 1980s, but in the end we were able to deploy enough of the Strategic Defense Initiative, "Star Wars, " to achieve the capability of knocking down enemy satellites, killing the electronic guidance systems of incoming enemy warheads, and disabling enemy spacecraft, if we had to, to pose a threat. It was alien technology that we used: lasers, accelerated particle-beam weapons, and aircraft equipped with "Stealth" features. And in the end, we not only outlasted the Soviets and ended the Cold War, but we forced a stalemate with the extraterrestrials, who were not so invulnerable after all.

What happened after Roswell, how we turned the extraterrestrials' technology against them, and how we actually won the Cold War is an incredible story. During the thick of it, I didn't even realize how incredible it was. I just did my job, going to work at the Pentagon day

in and day out until we put enough of this alien technology into development that it began to move forward under its own weight through industry and back into the army.

The full import of what we did at Army R &D and what General Trudeau did to grow R &D from a disorganized unit under the shadow of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, when he first took command, to the army department that helped create the military guided missile, the antimissile missile, and the guided missile launched accelerated particle beam firing satellite killer, didn't really hit me until years later when I understood just how we were able to make history.

I always thought of myself as just a little man from a little American town in western Pennsylvania, and I didn't assess the weight of our accomplishments at Army R &D, especially how we harvested the technology coming out of the Roswell crash, until thirty-five years after I left the army when I sat down to write my memoirs for an entirely different book.

That was when I reviewed my old journals, remembered some of the memos I'd written to General Trudeau, and understood that the story of what happened in the days after the Roswell crash was perhaps the most significant story of the past fifty years. So, believe it or not, this is the story of what happened in the days after Roswell and how a small group of military intelligence officers changed the course of human history.

2.2.2 Roswell part 2 (2023-02-01 22:51)

By now Army Counter intelligence, this highly secret command sector which in 1947 operated almost as much in the civilian sector as it did in the military, had spun up to its highest alert and ordered a full deployment of its most experienced crack World War II operatives out to Roswell. CIC personnel had begun to arrive from Washington when the first reports of strange radar blips were filed through intelligence channels and kept coming as the reports continued to pile up with increasing urgency over the next forty-eight hours. Officers and enlisted men alike disembarked from the transport planes and changed into civilian clothes for the investigation into enemy activities on the area. They joined up with base intelligence officers like Maj. Jesse Marcel and Steve Arnold, a Counter intelligence noncom who'd served at the Roswell base during World War II when the first nuclear bombing mission against Hiroshima was launched from there in August 1945, just about two years earlier.

On the evening of July 4, 1947 (though the dates may differ depending on who is telling the story), while the rest of the country was celebrating Independence Day and looking with great optimism at the costly peace that the sacrifice of its soldiers had brought, radar operators at sites around Roswell noticed that the strange objects were turning up again and looked almost as if they were changing their shapes on the screen.

They were pulsating - it was the only way you could describe it - glowing more intensely and then dimly as tremendous thunderstorms broke out over the desert. Steve Arnold, posted to the Roswell airfield control tower that evening, had never seen a blip behave like that as it darted across the screen between sweeps at speeds over a thousand miles an hour. All the while it was pulsating, throbbing almost, until, while the skies over the base exploded

in a biblical display of thunder and lightning, it arced to the lower left hand quadrant of the screen, seemed to disappear for a moment, then exploded in a brilliant white fluorescence and evaporated right before his very eyes.

The screen was clear. The blips were gone. And as controllers looked around at each other and at the CIC officers in the room, the same thought arose in all their minds: An object, whatever it was, had crashed. The military response was put into motion within seconds: This was a national security issue - jump on that thing in the desert and bring it back before anyone else could find it.

Even before the radar officer called the 509th base commander, Col. William Blanchard, reporting that radar indicated the crash of an unidentified aircraft to the north and west of Roswell, the CIC dispatch team had already mobilized to deploy an immediate-response crash-and-retrieval team to locate and secure the crash site. They believed this was an enemy aircraft that had slipped through our radar defense system either from South America or over the Canadian border and had taken photos of top-secret military installations. They also wanted to keep civilians away just in case, they said, there was any radiation from the craft's propulsion system, which allowed it to make hairpin turns at three thousand miles an hour.

Nobody knew how this thing was powered, and nobody knew whether any personnel had ejected from the aircraft and were wandering around the desert. "Bull" Blanchard green-lighted the retrieval mission to get out there as soon as possible, taking with them all the night patrol equipment they could scare up, all the two-and-a-half-ton trucks that they could roll, and the base's "low-boy" flatbed wreckers to bring the aircraft back. If it was a crash, they wanted to get it under wraps in a hangar before any civilian authorities could get their hands on it and blab to the newspapers.

But the air controllers at the 509th weren't the only ones who thought they saw an aircraft go down. On the outskirts of the city, ranchers, families camping in the desert, and residents saw an aircraft that exploded in a bright light in between flashes of lightning and plummeted to earth in the direction of Corona, the neighboring town to the north of Roswell.

Chavez County sheriff George Wilcox started receiving calls in his office shortly after midnight on the morning of the fifth that an airplane had crashed out in the desert, and he notified the Roswell Fire Department that he would dispatch them as soon as he had an approximate location. No sense pulling fire apparatus out of the station house to chase something through the desert unless they knew where it was. Besides, Wilcox didn't like rolling the trucks out of town just in case there was a fire in the city that needed all the apparatus they could throw at it, especially the pumpers.

However, finding the crash site didn't take long. A group of Indian artifact hunters camping in the scrub brush north of Roswell had also seen the pulsating light overhead, heard a hurtling hiss and the strange, ground shaking "thunk" of a crash nearby in the distance, and followed the sound to a group of low hills just over arise. Before they even inspected the smoking wreckage, they radioed the crash site location into Sheriff Wilcox's office, which dispatched the fire department to a spot about thirty-seven miles north and west of the city.

"I'm already on my way, " he told the radio operator at the firehouse, who also called the city police for an escort.

And by about four-thirty that morning, a single pumper and police car were bouncing through the desert taking Pine Lodge Road west to where Sheriff Wilcox had directed them. Neither the sheriff nor the fire department knew that a military retrieval team was also on its way to the site with orders to secure the location and, by any means necessary, prevent the unauthorized dissemination of any information about the crash.

It was still dark when, from another direction, Steve Arnold, riding shotgun in one of the staff cars in the convoy of recovery vehicles from the 509th, reached the crash site first. Even before their trucks rolled into position, an MP lieutenant from the first jeep posted a picket of sentries, and an engineer ordered his unit to string a series of floodlights around the area. Then Arnold's car pulled up, and he got his own first glimpse of the wreckage. But it wasn't really wreckage at all - not in the way he'd seen plane crashes during the war. From what he could make out through the purple darkness, the dark skinned craft seemed mostly intact and had lost no large pieces. Sure, there were bits and pieces of debris all over the area, but the aircraft itself hadn't broken apart on impact the way a normal airplane would. And the whole scene was still shrouded in darkness.

Then, the staff cars and jeeps that had accompanied the trucks lined up head on to the crash and threw their headlights against the arroyo to supplement the floodlights that were still being strung by the engineers. In the sudden intersecting beams of headlights, Arnold could see that, indeed, the soft cornered delta shaped eggshell type of craft was essentially in one piece, even though it had embedded its nose hard into the embankment of the arroyo with its tail high in the air. Heat was still rising off the debris even though, according to the base radar at the 509th, the crash probably took place before midnight on the 4th.

Then Arnold heard the brief sizzle of a battery charging up and the hum of a gasoline generator. That's when the string of lights came up, and the whole site suddenly looked like a baseball field before a big night game.

In the stark light of the military searchlights, Arnold saw the entire landscape of the crash. He thought it looked more like a crash landing because the craft was intact except for a split seam running lengthwise along the side and the steep forty-five-plus-degree angle of the craft's incline. He assumed it was a craft, even though it was like no airplane he'd ever seen. It was small, but it looked more like the flying wing shape of an old Curtis than an ellipse or a saucer.

And it had two tail fins on the top sides of the delta's feet that pointed up and out. He angled himself as close to the split seam of the craft as he could get without stepping in front of the workers in hazardous material suits who were checking the site for radiation, and that was when he saw them in the shadow. Little dark gray figures - maybe four, four and a half feet in length - sprawled across the ground.

"Are those people?" Arnold heard someone say as medics rushed up with stretchers to the knife like laceration along the side of the craft through which the bodies had either crawled or tumbled.

Arnold looked around the perimeter of light and saw another figure, motionless but menacing nevertheless, and another leaning against a small rise in the desert sand. There was a fifth figure near the opening of the craft. As radiation technicians gave the all clear and medics ran to the bodies with stretchers, Arnold sneaked a look through the rip in the aircraft

and stared out through the top. Jehosaphat! It looked like the sun was already up. Just to make sure, Steve Arnold looked around the outside again and, sure enough, it was still too dark to call it daylight. But through the top of the craft, as if he were looking through a lens, Arnold could see an eerie stream of light, not daylight or lamplight, but light nevertheless.

He'd never seen anything like that before and thought that maybe this was a weapon the Russians or somebody else had developed.

The scene at the crash site was a microcosm of chaos. Technicians with specific tasks, such as medics, hazardous material sweepers, signalmen and radio operators, and sentries were carrying out their jobs as methodically and unthinkingly as if they were the Emperor Ming's brainwashed furnace stoking zombies from the Flash Gordon serials. But everyone else, including the officers, were simply awestruck. They'd never seen anything like this before, and they stood there, overpowered, it seemed, by simply a general sense of amazement that would not let them out of its grip.

"Hey, this one's alive, " Arnold heard, and turned around to see one of the little figures struggling on the ground. With the rest of the medics, he ran over to it and watched as it shuddered and made a crying sound that echoed not in the air but in his brain. He heard nothing through his ears, but felt an overwhelming sense of sadness as the little figure convulsed on the ground, its oversized egg shaped skull flipping from side to side as if it was trying to gasp for something to breathe. That's when he heard the sentry shout, "Hey, you!" and turned back to the shallow rise opposite the arroyo.

"Halt!" the sentry screamed at the small figure that had gotten up and was trying desperately to climb over the hill.

"Halt!" the sentry yelled again and brought his M1 to bear. Other soldiers ran toward the hill as the figure slipped in the sand, started to slide down, caught his footing, and climbed again. The sound of soldiers locking and loading rounds in their chambers carried loud across the desert through the predawn darkness.

"No!" one of the officers shouted. Arnold couldn't see which one, but it was too late.

There was a rolling volley of shots from the nervous soldiers, and as the small figure tried to stand, he was flung over like a rag doll and then down the hill by the rounds that tore into him. He lay motionless on the sand as the first three soldiers to reach him stood over the body, chambered new rounds, and pointed their weapons at his chest.

"Fuck, " the officer spit again. "Arnold. " Steve Arnold snapped to attention. "You and your men get out there and stop those civilians from crossing this perimeter. " He motioned to the small convoy of emergency vehicles approaching them from the east. He knew they had to be police or county sheriff. Then he called out, "Medics. "

Arnold jumped to at once, and by the time the medics were loading the little creature on a stretcher, he was already setting up a perimeter of CIC personnel and sentries to block the site from the flashing lights and churning sand far in the distance to the south of them. He heard the officer order the medics to load the bodies on stretchers, pack them in the back of whatever two-and-a-half-ton CMC he could pull off the line, and drive them back to the base

immediately.

“Sergeant, “ the officer called out again. “I want your men to load up everything that can be loaded on these deuce-and-a-halves and sway that damn . . . whatever it is” - he was pointing to the delta shaped object - “on this low-boy and get it out of here. The rest of you, “ he called out. “I want this place spotless. Nothing ever happened here, you understand? Just a nothing piece of scrub brush like the rest of this desert. “

As the soldiers formed an arm in arm “search and rescue” grid, some on their hands and knees, to clean the area of any pieces of debris, devices, or chunks of wreckage, the huge retrieval crane that had been deployed from the air base hoisted the surprisingly light flying object out of its impact crater in the arroyo and swayed it above the long flatbed Ford that accompanied the convoy of army trucks. A small squad of MPs were deployed to face the civilian convoy of emergency vehicles quickly approaching the site. They fixed bayonets and lowered their M1 barrels at the whirlwind of sand directly in front of them.

On the other side of the skirmish line, Roswell firefighter Dan Dwyer, the radioman riding shotgun on the red Ward LaFrance pumper the company rolled that night along with the tanker, could see very little at first except for an oasis of white light in the center of darkness. His small convoy had been running lights but no sirens as they pulled out of the firehouse in the center of Roswell, rendez voused with the police car north of town, and headed out to the site to rescue what he had been told was a downed aircraft.

As he approached the brightly lit area of floodlights off in the distance - it looked more like a small traveling amusement park than a crash site - he could already see the soldiers in a rough circle around an object that was swinging from the arm of a crane. As the LaFrance got closer, Dwyer could just make the strange deltoid shape of the thing as it hung, very precariously, from the arm, almost dropping once or twice under the very inexperienced control of the equipment operator. Even at this distance, the sound of shouting and cursing was carrying across the sand as the crane was raised, then lowered, then raised as the object finally sat over the Ford flatbed trailer.

The police unit ahead of the fire truck suddenly shot out toward the brightly lit area as soon as the driver saw the activity, and immediately the area was obscured from Dwyer’s vision by clouds of sand that diffused the light. All he could see through the thicket of sand were the reflections of his own flashing lights. When the sand cleared, they were almost on top of the site, swinging off to one side to avoid the army trucks that had already started hack down the road toward them. Dwyer looked over his shoulder to see if any more military vehicles were headed his way, but all he saw were the first pink lines of sunlight over the horizon. It was almost morning.

By the time Dwyer’s field truck pulled around to the area the soldiers had pointed out, whatever it was that had crashed was sitting on the flatbed, still clamped to the hovering crane. Three or four soldiers were working on the coupling and securing the object to the truck with chains and cable. But for something that had dropped out of the sky in a fireball, which was how the police described it, Dwyer noted that the object looked almost unscathed. He couldn’t see any cracks in the object’s skin and there were no pieces that had broken off. Then the soldiers dropped an olive tarp over the flatbed and the object was completely camouflaged. An army captain walked over to one of the police units parked directly in front of the fire truck. And behind the officer stood a line of bayonet wielding soldiers sporting MP armbands.

“You guys can head on back, “ Dwyer heard the captain tell one of the Roswell police officers

on the scene.

"We've got the area secured. "

"What about injuries?" the police officer asked, maybe thinking more about the incident report he had to fill out than about what to do with any casualties.

"No injuries. We have everything under control, " the captain said.

But even as the military was waving off the civilian convoy, Dwyer could see small bodies being lifted on stretchers from the ground into army transport trucks. A couple of them were already in body bags, but one, not bagged, was strapped directly onto the stretcher. The police officer saw it, too. This one, Dwyer could tell, was moving around and seemed to be alive. He had to get closer.

"What about them?" he asked.

"Hey, get those things loaded, " the captain shouted at the enlisted men loading the stretchers into the truck.

"You didn't see anything here tonight, Officer, " he told the driver of the police unit. "Nothing at all. "

"But, I gotta ... "

The captain cut him off. "Later today, I'm sure, there'll be someone from the base out to talk to the shift; meanwhile, let this one alone. Strictly military business. "

By this time Dwyer thought he recognized people he knew from the army airfield. He thought he could see the base intelligence officer, Jesse Marcel, who lived "off" the base in Roswell, and other personnel who came into town on a regular basis. He saw debris from whatever had crashed still lying all over the ground as the flatbed truck pulled out, passed the fire apparatus, and rumbled off through the sand back on the road toward the base.

Dwyer took off his fire helmet, climbed down from the truck, and worked his way through the shadows around the flank of the line of MPs. There was so much confusion at the site Dwyer knew no one would notice if he looked around. He walked around in back of the truck, across the perimeter, and from the other side of the military transport truck walked up to the stretcher. He looked directly down into the eyes of the creature strapped onto the stretcher and just stared.

It was no bigger than a child, he thought. But it wasn't a child. No child had such an oversized balloon shaped head. It didn't even look human, although it had human like features. It's eyes were large and dark, set apart from each other on a downward slope. It's nose and mouth were especially tiny, almost like slits. And its ears were not much more than indentations along the sides of its huge head. In the glare of the floodlight, Dwyer could see that the creature was a grayish brown and completely hairless, but it looked directly at him as if it were a helpless animal in a trap.

It didn't make a sound, but somehow Dwyer understood that the creature understood it was dying. He could gape in astonishment at the thing, but it was quickly loaded onto the truck by a couple of soldiers in helmets who asked him what he was doing. Dwyer knew this was bigger than anything he ever wanted to see and got out of there right away, losing himself amidst a group of personnel working around a pile of debris.

The whole site was scattered with articles that Dwyer assumed had fallen out of the craft when it hit. He could see the indentation in the arroyo where it looked like the object embedded itself and followed with his eyes the pattern of debris stretching out from the small crater into the darkness beyond the floodlights. The soldiers were crawling all over on their

hands and knees with scraping devices and carrying sacks or walking in straight lines waving metal detectors in front of them.

They were sweeping the area clean, it seemed to him, so that any curiosity seekers who floated out here during the day would find nothing to reveal the identity of what had been here. Dwyer reached down to pick up a patch of a dull gray metallic cloth like material that seemed to shine up at him from the sand. He slipped it into his fist and rolled it into a ball. Then he released it and the metallic fabric snapped back into shape without any creases or folds. He thought no one was looking at him, so he stuffed it into the pocket of his fire jacket to bring back to the firehouse.

He would later show it to his young daughter, who forty-five years later and long after the piece of metallic fabric itself had disappeared into history, would describe it on television documentaries to millions of people. But that night in July 1947, if Dwyer thought he was invisible, he was wrong.

"Hey you, " a sergeant wearing an MP armband bawled. "What the hell are you doing out here?"

"I responded with the fire company, " Dwyer said as innocently as possible.

"Well, you get your civilian ass back on that truck and get it the hell out of here, " he ordered.

"You take anything with you?"

"Not me, Sergeant, " Dwyer said.

Then the MP grabbed him as if he were under arrest and hustled him off to a major, who was shouting orders near the generator that was powering the string of floodlights. He recognized him as Roswell resident Jesse Marcel.

"Caught this fireman wandering around in the debris, sir, " the sergeant reported. Marcel obviously recognized Dwyer, although the two weren't friends, and gave him what the fireman only remembered as an agonized look. "You got to get out of here, " he said. "And never tell anyone where you were or what you saw. "

Dwyer nodded.

"I mean it, this is top security here, the kind of thing that could get you put away, " Marcel continued. "Whatever this is, don't talk about it, don't say anything until somebody tells you what to say. Now get your truck out of here before someone else sees you and tries to lock the whole bunch of you up. Move!" He faced the helmeted MP. "Sergeant, get him back on that fire truck and move it out. "

Dwyer didn't need any more invitations. He let the sergeant hustle him along, put him back on the truck, and told his driver to bring it back to the station. The MP sergeant came up to the driver's side window and looked up at the fireman behind the wheel.

"You've been ordered to evacuate this site, " the MP told the driver. "At once!"

The Roswell police unit had already made a U-turn on the sand and was motioning for the truck to back up. The driver dropped the truck into reverse, gently fed it gas as its wheels dug into the sand, made his U-turn, and headed back for the firehouse in Roswell. The Ford flatbed had already passed through the sleeping town in the moments between darkness and light, the sound of its engines causing no alarm or stir, the sight of a large tarpaulin covered object on the back of an army vehicle rolling along the main street of Roswell against the purple gray sky raising nobody's eyebrows because it was nothing out of the ordinary. But later, by the time Dwyer backed his field truck into the station house, the sun was already up and the first of the CMC transport trucks was just reaching the main gate at the 509th.

Plumbing subcontractor Roy Danzer, who had worked through the night at the base fitting pipe, knew something was up from the way the trucks tore out of the compound through

the darkness. He had just walked out of the base hospital to grab a cigarette before going back to work. That's when he heard the commotion over at the main gate. Danzer had cut his hand a few days earlier cutting pipe, and the infirmary nurse wanted to keep checking the stitches to make sure no infection was setting in. So Danzer took the opportunity to get away from the job for a few minutes while the nurse looked over her work and changed his bandage. Then, on his way back to the job, he would grab a cup of coffee and take an unscheduled cigarette break. But this morning, things would be very different.

The commotion he heard by the main gate had now turned into a swirling throng of soldiers and base workers shoved aside by what looked like a squad of MPs using their bodies as a wedge to force a pathway through the crowd. There didn't even seem to be an officer giving orders, just a crowd of soldiers. Strange. Then the throng headed right for the base hospital, right for the main entrance, right for the very spot where Roy was standing.

Nobody moved him out of the way or told him to vacate the area. In fact, no one even spoke to him. Roy just looked down as the line of soldiers passed him, and there it was, strapped tightly to a stretcher that two bearers were carrying into the base hospital right through the main door. Roy looked at it; it looked at Roy, and as their eyes met Roy knew in an instant that he was not looking down at a human being. It was a creature from somewhere else.

The pleading look on its face, occupying only a small frontal portion of its huge watermelon sized skull, and the emotion of pain and suffering that played itself behind Roy Danzer's eyes and across his brain while he stared down at the figure told Roy it was in its final moments of life. It didn't speak. It could barely move. But Roy actually saw, or believed he saw, an expression cross over its little circle of a face. And then the creature was gone, carried into the hospital by the stretcher bearers, who shot him an ugly glare as they passed. Roy took another drag on the cigarette butt still in his hand.

"What the hell was that?" he asked no one in particular. Then he felt like he'd been hit by the front four of the Notre Dame football team.

His head snapped back against the top of his spine as he went flying forward into the arms of a couple of MPs, who slammed him against an iron gate and kept him there until an officer - he thought it was a captain - walked up and stuck his finger directly into Danzer's face.

"Just who are you, mister?" the captain bellowed into Danzer's ear. Even before Danzer could answer, two other officers walked up and began demanding what authorization Danzer had to be on the base.

These guys weren't kidding, Danzer thought to himself; they looked ugly and were working themselves up into a serious lather. For a few tense minutes, Roy Danzer thought he would never see his family again; he was that scared. But then a major approached and broke into the shouting.

"I know this guy," the major said. "He works here with the other civilian contractors. He's OK."

"Sir," the captain sputtered, but the major - Danzer didn't know his name - took the captain by the arm right out of earshot. Danzer could see them talking and watched as the red faced captain gradually calmed down. Then the two returned to where the MPs were holding Danzer against the wall.

"You saw nothing, you understand?" the captain said to Danzer, who just nodded. "You're not

to tell anybody about this, not your family, not your friends - nobody. You got that?"

"Yes, sir, " Danzer said. He was truly afraid now.

"We'll know if you talk; we'll know who you talk to and all of you will simply disappear. "

"Captain, " the major broke in.

"Sir, this guy has no business here and if he talks I can't guarantee anything. " The captain complained as if he were trying to cover his ass to a superior who didn't know as much as he did.

"So forget everything you saw, " the major said directly to Danzer. "And hightail it out of here before someone else sees you and wants to make sure you stay silent. "

"Yes, SIR, " Danzer just about shouted as he extricated himself from the grip of the MPs on either side of him and broke for his pickup truck on the other side of the base.

He didn't even look back to see the team of soldiers carrying the body bags of the remaining creatures into the hospital where, before there were any other briefings, the creatures were prepared for autopsy like bagged game waiting to be dressed.

The rest of the story about that week has become the subject of history. First, 509th base commander Bull Blanchard authorized the release of the "flying saucer" story that was picked up by news services and carried around the country. Then General Roger Ramey at 8th Army Air Force headquarters in Texas ordered Maj. Jesse Marcel to go back before the press and retract the flying saucer story. This time, Marcel was ordered to say that he'd made a mistake and realized the debris had actually come from a weather balloon. Swallowing a story he himself never believed, Jesse Marcel posed with some faked debris from an actual balloon and confessed to an error he never could have made, even on a bad day. It was a confession that would haunt him the rest of his life until, decades later and shortly before he died, he would retract his public story and restate that he had actually retrieved an alien spacecraft that night in the Roswell desert.

Meanwhile, in the days and weeks after the crash and retrieval, Army Intelligence and CIC personnel fanned out through Roswell and neighboring communities to suppress whatever information they could. With ill-advised threats of violence, actual physical intimidation, and, according to some of the rumors, at least one homicide, army officers bludgeoned the community into silence. Mac Brazel, one of the civilians near whose property the crash took place and one of the visitors to the site, was allegedly bribed and threatened. He suddenly became silent about what he had seen in the desert even after he had told friends and news people that he'd retrieved pieces from a downed spacecraft.

Officers from the Chavez County Sheriffs Department and other law enforcement agencies were forced to comply with the army edict that the incident outside of Roswell was a matter of national security and was not to be discussed. "It never happened, " the army decreed, and civilian authorities willingly complied. Even the local Roswell radio station news correspondents, John McBoyle from KSWB and Walt Whitmore Sr. from KGFL, who'd conducted interviews with witnesses to the debris field, were forced to submit to the official line that the army imposed and never broadcast their reports.

For some of the civilians who claimed to have experienced intimidation from the army officers who flooded into Roswell after the crash, the trauma remained with them for the rest of their lives. One was Dan Dwyer's daughter, who was a young child in July 1947, and who endured the sight of a huge, helmeted army officer, his expression obscured by sunglasses, looming over her in her mother's kitchen and telling her that if she didn't forget what she had been told by her father, she and the rest of her family would simply disappear in the desert.

Sally who had played with the metallic fabric her father had brought back to the firehouse that morning and had heard his description of the little people carried away on stretchers, quaked in terror as the officer finally got her to admit that she had seen nothing, heard nothing, and handled nothing. "It never happened, " he hissed at her. "And there's nothing you will ever say about it for the rest of your life because we will be there and we will know it, " he repeated over and over again, slapping a police baton into his palm with a loud crack at every word.

Even today, tears form at the corners of her eyes as she describes the scene and remembers the expression of her mother, who had been told to leave the kitchen while the officer spoke to Sally. It's tough for a kid to see her parents so terrorized into silence that they will deny the truth before their eyes.

Roy Danzer's daughter, too, was frightened at the sight of her father when he came home from the base that morning on July 5, 1947. He wouldn't talk about what had gone on there, of course, even though the town was abuzz with rumors that creatures from outer space had invaded Roswell. Wasn't it true that all the children in town knew about it and there'd been stories about flying saucers in newspapers for weeks? It was even on the radio. But Roy Danzer wouldn't say a word in front of his daughter. She heard her parents talking through the closed door of her bedroom at nights and caught snippets of conversations about little creatures and "they'll kill us all. " But she buried these in a part of her memory she never visited until her father, shortly before his death, told her what really happened at the base that day in July when the convoy arrived out of the desert.

Steve Arnold stayed in Roswell, finishing out his official re-enlistment with the army and, without his direct knowledge, remaining apart of my own team right through the 1960s. Some say he works for the government still, carrying out a job that fell to him right out of the New Mexico skies, pumping out disinformation from the army or the CIA or whomever, perpetuating a camouflage story that, fifty years later, has taken on a life of its own and goes forward, like a tale out of a Dickens novel, simply on inertia. You can see Steve today walking around Roswell, visiting old friends from his army days, giving interviews on television to the news crews that periodically pay visits to the folks at Roswell who want to talk about those days in the summer of 1947.

As for the debris retrieved out of the desert that July, it had another destiny. Shipped to Fort Bliss, Texas, headquarters of the 8th Army Air Force, and summarily analyzed for what it was and what it might contain, all of it was transferred to the control of the military. As quickly as it arrived, some of the debris was flown to Ohio, where it was put under lock and key at Wright Airfield - later Wright - Patterson. The rest of it was loaded onto trucks and sent up to a rest stop at Fort Riley in Kansas. The 509th returned to its daily routine, Jesse Marcel went back to work as if he'd never held the wreckage from the strange craft in his own hands, and the contractors returned to their work on the pipes and doors and walls at the base just as if nothing had ever arrived there from the desert.

By the time the first week of July 1947 was over, the crash outside of Roswell might as well have never taken place. Like the night that engulfs you as you drive through the expanse of desert and chaparral toward Roswell, so the night of silence engulfed the story of Roswell itself for over thirty years.

These are the stories as I heard them, as people later told them to me. I wasn't there

at Roswell that night. I didn't see these events for myself. I only heard them years later when the task fell to me to make something out of all this. But the debris from the crash of the object that was either caused by lightning or by our targeting radar, sonic say, and fell out of the sky that night was on its way to a collision course with my life.

Our paths would cross officially at the Pentagon in the 1960s even though, for a very brief moment in 1947, when I was a young major at Fort Riley, fresh from the glory of victory in Europe, I would see something that I would tuck away in my memory and hope against hope I would never see again for the rest of my life.

CHAPTER 2

Convoy to Fort Riley

I CAN REMEMBER A TIME WHEN I WAS SO YOUNG AND FEELING so invincible that there was nothing in the world I was afraid of. I had faced down fear in North Africa. With General Patton's army I stood toe-to-toe against the artillery in Rommel's Panzer Divisions and gave them better than they dished out to us. We were an army of young men from a country that hadn't started the war but found itself right in the midst of it before we even got out of church the Sunday Pearl Harbor was attacked. The next thing we knew Hitler declared war on us and we were fighting in Europe. But by 1942, we drove the Germans right out of Africa and jumped across the sea to Sicily.

Then, while Mussolini was still reeling from the punches, we invaded Italy and fought our way up the peninsula until we came to Rome. We were the first invading army to conquer Rome since the Middle Ages, and obviously the first invading army from the New World to ever occupy Rome.

But there we were by early 1944, sitting in Rome after Mussolini fled and the German front collapsing all around us. And as a too young captain in Army Intelligence, I was ordered to oversee the formation of a civilian government under Allied military rule in the magical city of my ancestors that I'd only read about in history books.

Pope Pious himself offered me an audience to discuss our plans for the city government. You can't even dream this stuff up. It has to happen to you in real life, and then you pinch yourself to make sure you don't wake up in your own bed outside of Pittsburgh on a winter morning.

I stayed in Rome for three years from the months before the landing at Normandy in 1944, when the German front lines were still only a few miles south of Rome and our boys were slugging their way up the slopes of Monte Casino, to early 1947, when I was shipped back home and my wife and I threw everything we had into the trunk of a used Chevy convertible and drove across the farmland state routes of peace time America from Pennsylvania to Kansas. I'd been away five years.

But now I was home! Driving top-down across Missouri to an assignment that was considered a plum for any young officer on his way up the army ladder: Military Intelligence School, only one step away from Strategic Intelligence, the army's version of the Ivy League; I was moving up in the world. And what was I? Just a draftee out of Pennsylvania who was chosen for Officer Candidate School, and now fresh from a wartime intelligence command in

Allied occupied Europe and ready to begin my new career in Army Intelligence.

Having been in Africa and Europe for so many years, I was anxious to see America again. By this time its people were not stooping under the weight of the depression nor in factories nor in uniform sweating out a desperate war across two oceans. This was an America victory, and you could see it as you drove through the small towns of southern Ohio and Illinois and then across the Mississippi. We didn't stop overnight to see St. Louis or even to linger on the Kansas side of the river. I was so excited to be a career officer that we didn't stop driving until we pulled straight into Fort Riley and set up an apartment in nearby Junction City, where we'd live while they got our house ready on the base.

For most of the next few weeks, my wife and I got used to living in America again on a peacetime army base. We had lived in Rome after the war while I was still trying to help pacify the city and fend off the Communist attempts to take over the government. It was as if we were still fighting a war because each day had brought renewed challenges from either the Communists or the organized crime families who had tried to infiltrate their way back into the civilian government. My life was also in danger each day from the different cadres of terrorists in the city, each group with its own agenda. So in contrast to Italy, Fort Riley was like the beginning of a vacation.

And I was back in school again. This time, however, I was taking courses in career training. I knew how to be an intelligence officer and, in fact, had been trained by the British MI 19, the premier wartime intelligence network in the world. My training had been so thorough that even though we were up against crack Soviet NKV Dunits operating within Rome, we were able to out think them and actually destroy them.

Prior to the war, the United States really didn't have a peacetime intelligence service, which is why they quickly formed the OSS when war broke out. But the Army Intelligence units and the OSS didn't operate together for most of the war because communication lines were faulty and we never really trusted the OSS agenda. Now with the war over and Army Intelligence having come into its own, I was part of a whole new cadre of career intelligence officers who would keep watch on Soviet activities. The Soviets had become our new old enemies.

In intelligence school during those first months we reviewed not only the rudiments of good intelligence gathering - interrogation of enemy prisoners, analysis of raw intelligence data, and the like - but we learned the basics of administration and how to run a wartime intelligence unit called the aggressor force. None of us realized during those early days how quickly our newly acquired skills would be tested nor where our enemies would choose to fight. But those were confident days as the weather turned warmer on the plains and the days grew long with the coming of summer.

Before the war broke out and when I was in high school back in California, Pennsylvania, my hometown, I was something of a bowler. It was a sport I wanted to get back to when the war ended, so when I got to Fort Riley, one of the first places I looked up was the bowling alley on the base, which had been built in one of the former stables. Fort Riley was a former cavalry base, the home of Cutter's 7th Cavalry, and still had a polo field after the war. I started practicing my bowling again and was soon rolling enough strikes that the enlisted men who bowled there began talking to me about my game.

Before too many months had passed, M. Sgt. Bill Brown - the men called him "Brownie"

- stopped me when I was changing out of my bowling shoes and said he wanted to talk.

"Major, sir, " he began, more than a little embarrassed to address an officer out of uniform and not on any official army business. He couldn't possibly have realized that I was a draftee just like him and had spent the first few months in the service taking orders from corporals in boot camp.

"Sergeant?" I asked.

"The men at the post want to start up a bowling league, sir, have teams to bowl against and maybe come up with a team to represent the base, " he began. "So we've been watching you bowl on Saturdays."

"So what am I doing wrong?" I asked. I figured at first maybe this sergeant was going to give me a tip or two and wanted to establish some authority. OK, I'll take a tip from anybody. But that's not what he asked.

"No, sir. Nothing at all, " he stammered. "I'm saying something different. We, the guys, were wondering if you've bowled before - do you think maybe you'd like to become part of the team?" He had gotten more confidence the more he framed his request.

"You want me for your team?" I asked. I was pretty surprised because officers weren't supposed to fraternize with enlisted men at that time. Things are very different now, but then, fifty years ago, it was a different world, even for much of the officer corps that started out as draftees and went through officer training.

"We know it's out of the ordinary, sir, but there are no rules against it. " I gave him a very surprised look. "We checked, " he said. This was obviously not a spur of the moment question.

"You think I can hold up my end of things?" I asked. "It's been along time since I've bowled against anybody. "

"Sir, we've been watching. We think you'll really help us out. Besides, " he continued, "we do need an officer on the team. "

Whether out of modesty or because he didn't want to put me off, he had completely understated the nature of the bowling team. These guys had been champions in their own hometowns and, years later, you could have found them on Bowling for Dollars. There was no reason in the world I should have been on that team except that they wanted an officer because it would give them prestige.

I told him I'd get back to him on it because I wanted to check on the rules, if there were any, for myself. In fact officers and enlisted personnel were allowed to compete on the same athletic teams, and, in very short order, I joined the team, along with Dave Bender, John Miller, Brownie, and Sal Federico. We became quite a remarkable team, winning most of our matches, more than a few trophies, and had lots of exciting moments when we made the impossible splits and bowled our way all the way to the state finals. We ultimately won the Army Bowling Championships, and the trophy sits on my desk to this very day. Magically, the barrier between officer and enlisted man seemed to drop. And that's the real point of this story.

Through the months I spent on the team, I became friends with Bender, Miller, Federico, and Brown. We didn't socialize much, except for the bowling, but we also didn't stand on ceremony with each other, and I liked it that way. I found that a lot of the career intelligence officers also liked to see some of the barriers drop because sometimes men will speak with more honesty to you if you don't throw what's on your shoulders into their faces every time you talk to them. So I became friends with these guys, and that's what got me into the veterinary building on Sunday night, July 6, 1947.

I remember how hot it had been that whole weekend of July 4th celebrations and fire-

works. These were the days before everybody had to have air-conditioning, so we just sweltered inside the offices at the base and swatted away the fat lazy flies that buzzed around looking for hot dog crumbs or landing on chunks of pickle relish. By Sunday, the celebrations were over, guys who'd had too much beer had been dragged off to their barracks by members of their company before the MPs got hold of them, and the base was settling down to the business of the week.

Nobody seemed to take much notice of the five deuce-and-a-halves and side-by-side low-boy trailers that had pulled into the base that afternoon full of cargo from Fort Bliss in Texas on their way to Air Materiel Command at Wright Field in Ohio. If you had looked at the cargo manifests the drivers were carrying, you'd have seen lists itemizing landing gear assembly struts for B29s, wing tank pods for vintage P51s, piston rings for radial aircraft engines, ten crates of Motorola walkie-talkies, and you wouldn't think anything of the shipment except for the fact that it was going the wrong way.

These spare parts were usually shipped from Wright Field to bases like Fort Bliss rather than the other way around, but, of course, I wouldn't know that until years later when the real cargo on those trucks fell straight onto my desk as if it had dropped out of the sky.

It got quiet that evening right after dark, and I remember that it was very humid. Off in the distance you could see lightning, and I wondered if the storms were going to reach the base before morning. I was the post duty officer on that night - similar to the chief duty officer of the watch on a naval vessel - and hoped, even more fervently, that if a storm were on its way, it would wait until morning to break so that I might be spared walking through the mud from sentry post to sentry post in the midst of a summer downpour. I looked over the sentry duty roster for that night and saw that Brownie was standing a post over at one of the old veterinarian buildings near the center of the compound.

The post duty officer spends his night at the main base headquarters, where he watches the phones and is the human firewall between an emergency and a disaster. Not much to do unless there's a war on or a company of roustabouts decides to tear up a local bar. And by late night, the base settles into a pattern. The sentries walk their posts, the various administrative offices close down, and whoever is on night watch takes over the communications system - which in 1947 consisted primarily of telephone and telex cable.

I had to walk a beat as well, checking the different buildings and sentry posts to make sure everyone was on duty. I also had to close down the social clubs. After I made my obligatory stops at the enlisted men's and officers' clubs, shutting down the bars and tossing, with all due respect to the senior officers, the drunks back to their quarters, I footed it over to the old veterinary building where Brown was standing watch. But when I got there, where he was supposed to be, I didn't see him. Something was wrong.

"Major Corso, " a voice hissed out of the darkness. It had an edge of terror and excitement to it.

"What the hell are you doing in there, Brownie?" I began cussing out the figure that peeked out at me from behind the door. "Have you gone off your rocker?" He was supposed to be outside the building, not hiding in a doorway. It was a breach of duty.

"You don't understand, Major, " he whispered again. "You have to see this. "

"Better be good, " I said as I walked over to where he was standing and waited for him outside the door. "Now you get out here where I can see you, " I ordered.

Brown popped his head out from behind the door.

"You know what's in here?" he asked.

Whatever was going on, I didn't want to play any games. The post duty sheet for that night read that the veterinary building was off-limits to everyone. Not even the sentries were allowed inside because whatever had been loaded in had been classified as "No Access." What was Brown doing on the inside?

"Brownie, you know you're not supposed to be in there, " I said. "Get out here and tell me what's going on. "

He stepped out from inside the door, and even through the shadow I could see that his face was a dead pale, just as if he'd seen a ghost. "You won't believe this, " he said. "I don't believe it and I just saw it. "

"What are you talking about?" I asked.

"The guys who off-loaded those deuce-and-a-halves, " he said. "They told us they brought these boxes up from Fort Bliss from some accident out in New Mexico?"

"Yeah, so what?" I was getting impatient with this.

"Well, they told us it was all top secret but they looked inside anyway. Everybody down there did when they were loading the trucks. MPs were walking around with sidearms and even the officers were standing guard, " Brown said. "But the guys who loaded the trucks said they looked inside the boxes and didn't believe what they saw. You got security clearance, Major. You can come in here. "

In fact, I was the post duty officer and could go anywhere I wanted during the watch. So I walked inside the old veterinary building, the medical dispensary for the cavalry horses before the First World War, and saw where the cargo from the convoy had been stacked up. There was no one in the building except for Bill Brown and myself.

"What is all this stuff?" I asked.

"That's just it, Major, nobody knows, " he said. "The drivers told us it came from a plane crash out in the desert somewhere around the 509th. But when they looked inside, it was nothing like anything they'd seen before. Nothing from this planet. "

It was the silliest thing I'd ever heard, enlisted men's tall stories that floated from base to base getting more inflated every lap around the track. Maybe I wasn't the world's smartest guy, but I had enough engineering and intelligence schooling to pick my way around pieces of wreckage and come up with two plus two. We walked over to the tarpaulin shrouded boxes, and I threw back the edge of the canvas.

"You're not supposed to be in here, " I told Brownie. "You better go. "

"I'll watch outside for you, Major. "

I almost wanted to tell him that that's what he was supposed to be doing all along instead of snooping into classified material, but I did what I used to do best and kept my mouth shut. I waited while he took up his position at the door to the building before I dug any further into the boxes.

There were about thirty-odd wooden crates nailed shut and stacked together against the far wall the building. The light switches were the push type and I didn't know which switch tripped which circuit, so I used my flashlight and stumbled around until my eyes got used to the darkness and shadows. I didn't want to start pulling apart the nails, so I set the flashlight off to one side where it could throw light on the stack and then searched for a box that could open easily. Then I found an oblong box off to one side with a wide seam under the top that looked like it had been already opened. It looked like either the strangest weapons crate you'd ever see or the smallest shipping crate for a coffin. Maybe this was the box that Brownie had seen. I brought the flashlight over and set it up high on the wall so it would throw as broad a beam as possible. Then I set to work on the crate.

The top was already loose. I was right - this one had just been opened. I jimmied the top back and forth, continuing to loosen the nails that had been pried up with a nail claw, until I felt them come out of the wood. Then I worked along the sides of the five-or-so-foot box until the top was loose all the way around. Not knowing which end of the box was the front, I picked up the top and slid it off to the edge. Then I lowered the flashlight, looked inside, and my stomach rolled right up into my throat and I almost became sick right then and there.

Whatever they'd crated this way, it was a coffin, but not like any coffin I'd seen before. The contents, enclosed in a thick glass container, were submerged in a thick light blue liquid, almost as heavy as a gelling solution of diesel fuel. But the object was floating, actually suspended, and not sitting on the bottom with a fluid overtop, and it was soft and shiny as the underbelly of a fish. At first I thought it was a dead child they were shipping somewhere. But this was no child. It was a four-foot human shaped figure with arms, bizarre-looking four-fingered hands - I didn't see a thumb - thin legs and feet, and an oversized incandescent lightbulb shaped head that looked like it was floating over a balloon gondola for a chin. I know I must have cringed at first, but then I had the urge to pull off the top of the liquid container and touch the pale gray skin. But I couldn't tell whether it was skin because it also looked like a very thin one-piece head-to-toe fabric covering the creature's flesh.

Its eyeballs must have been rolled way back in its head because I couldn't see any pupils or iris or anything that resembled a human eye. But the eye sockets themselves were oversized and almond shaped and pointed down to its tiny nose, which didn't really protrude from the skull. It was more like the tiny nose of a baby that never grew as the child grew, and it was mostly nostril.

The creature's skull was over grown to the point where all of its facial features - such as they were - were arranged absolutely frontally, occupying only a small circle on the lower part of the head. The protruding ears of a human were nonexistent, its cheeks had no definition, and there were no eyebrows or any indications of facial hair. The creature had only a tiny flat slit for a mouth and it was completely closed, resembling more of a crease or indentation between the nose and the bottom of the chinless skull than a fully functioning orifice. I would find out years later how it communicated, but at that moment in Kansas, I could only stand there in shock over the clearly non-human face suspended in front of me in a semi-liquid preservative.

I could see no damage to the creature's body and no indication that it had been involved in any accident.

There was no blood, its limbs seemed intact, and I could find no lacerations on the skin or through the gray fabric. I looked through the crate encasing the container of liquid for any paperwork or shipping invoice or anything that would describe the nature or origin of this thing. What I found was an intriguing Army Intelligence document describing the creature as an inhabitant of a craft that had crash landed in Roswell, New Mexico, earlier that week and a routing manifest for this creature to the login officer at the Air Materiel Command at Wright Field and from him to the Walter Reed Army Hospital morgue's pathology section where, I supposed, the creature would be autopsied and stored. It was not a document I was meant to see, for sure, so I tucked it back in the envelope against the inside wall of the crate.

I allowed myself more time to look at the creature than I should have, I suppose, because that night I missed the time checks on the rest of my rounds and believed I'd have

to come up with a pretty good explanation for the lateness of my other stops to verify the sentry assignments. But what I was looking at was worth any trouble I'd get into the next day. This thing was truly fascinating and at the same time utterly horrible. It challenged every conception I had, and I hoped against hope that I was looking at some form of atomic human mutation. I knew I couldn't ask anybody about it, and because I hoped I would never see its like again, I came up with explanation after explanation for its existence, despite what I'd read on the enclosed document: It was shipped here from Hiroshima, it was the result of a Nazi genetic experiment, it was a dead circus freak, it was anything but what I knew it said it was - what it had to be: an extraterrestrial.

I slid the top of the crate back over the creature, knocked the nails loosely into their original holes with the butt end of my flashlight, and put the tarp back in position. Then I left the building and hoped I could close the door forever on what I'd seen. Just forget it, I told myself. You weren't supposed to see it and maybe you can live your whole life without ever having to think about it. Maybe.

Once outside the building I rejoined Brownie at his post.

"You know you never saw this, " I said. "And you tell no one. "

"Saw what, Major?" Brownie said, and I walked back to the base general headquarters, the image of the creature suspended in that liquid fading away with each and every step I took. By the time I slid back behind the desk, it was all a dream. No, not a dream, a nightmare - but it was over and, I hoped, it would never come back.

2.2.3 Roswell artifacts (2023-02-01 22:52)

THE NIGHTMARE OF THE CREATURE I SAW AT FORT RILEY NEVER faded from my memory, although I was able to bury it during my years as a guided missile commander in Europe. And I never saw its body again the rest of my life except for the autopsy photos and the medical examiner sketches that would catch up to me, along with the rest of what happened at Roswell, when I returned to Washington from Germany for assignment at the Pentagon in 1961. I can remember my first day back when I was waiting outside my boss's door for entry into the inner sanctum. And, boy, was I ever nervous.

The last time I remembered being that nervous in Washington, I was standing in the little anteroom outside the Oval Office in the White House waiting for President Eisenhower to get off the phone. I had a big request to make and I wanted to do it face-to-face, not go through any aides or assistants or wait for special assistant C. D. Jackson to show up to make everything OK. I was almost a regular in the Oval Office those days, back in the 1950s, dropping off National Security Council staff papers for the President, making reports, and sometimes waiting while he read them just in case he wanted me to relay a message.

But this time was different. I needed to speak to him myself, alone. But Ike was taking a longer time than he usually took on this phone call, and I shifted around and sneaked a glance at the switchboard lights on Mrs. Lehrer's desk off to the side. Still on the phone, and

you could see at the bottom of the switch panel where the calls were backing up.

I was asking President Eisenhower for a personal favor: to let me out of my fifth year on the White House National Security staff so I could pick up the command of my own anti-aircraft guided-missile battalion being formed up in Red Canyon, New Mexico. Ike had once promised me a command of my own when I returned from Korea and was posted to the White House. And in 1957 the opportunity came up, a juicy assignment at a high-security base with the coveted green tabs and all the trappings: train and command an anti-aircraft battalion to use the army's most secret new surface-to-air missile and then take it to Germany for some front-line target practice right where the Russians could see us.

In case of World War III, the order of battle read, Soviet Backfire bombers will drop an inferno of high explosives on our positions first and the East German tanks will roll straight into our barracks. We stand and fight, torching off every missile we have so as to take out as many attacking aircraft as we have missiles, and get the hell out of there. I could almost taste the thrill in my mouth as I waited for Ike to get off the phone that day back in 1957.

Those were my memories this afternoon as I stood outside the back door of General Trudeau's office on the third floor of the outer ring of the Pentagon. It was 1961, four years after I left the White House and put on my uniform again to stand guard across the electronic no-man's-land of radar sweeps and photo sensors just a few kilometers west of the Iron Curtain. Ike had retired to his farm in Pennsylvania, and my new boss was General Arthur Trudeau, one of the last fighting generals from the Korean War.

Trudeau became an instant hero in my book when I heard about how his men were pinned down on the cratered slopes of Pork Chop Hill, dug into shallow foxholes with enemy mortars dropping round them like rain. You couldn't order anyone up that hell of an incline to walk those boys back down; just too damn many explosions. So Trudeau pulled off his stars, clapped a sergeant's helmet over his head, and fought back up the hill himself, leading a company of volunteers, and then fought his way back down. That was how he did things, with his own hands, and now I'd be working directly for him in the Army R & D Division.

I was a lieutenant colonel when I came to the Pentagon in 1961, and all I brought with me were my bowling trophy from Fort Riley and a nameplate for my desk cut out of the fin of a Nike missile from Germany. My men made it for me and said it would bring me luck. After I got to the Pentagon - it was still a couple of days before my assignment actually began - I found out right away I'd need a lot of it. In fact, as I opened the door and let myself directly into the general's inner office, I found out how much luck I'd need that very day.

"So what's the big secret, General?" I asked my new boss. It was strange talking to a general this way, but we'd become friends while I was on Eisenhower's staff. "Why not the front door?"

"Because they're already watching you, Phil, " he said, knowing exactly what kind of cold chill that would send through me. "And I'd just as soon have this conversation in private before you show up officially. "

He walked me over to a set of file cabinets. "Things haven't changed that much around here since you went to Germany, " he said. "We still know who our friends are and who we can trust. "

I knew his code. The Cold War was at its height and there were enemies all around us: in government, within the intelligence services, and within the White House itself. Those of us in military intelligence who knew the truth about how much danger the country was in were

very circumspect about what we said, even to each other, and where we said it. Looking back on it now from the safe distance of forty years, it's hard to believe that even as big eight-cylinder American cars rolled off the assembly lines and into suburban driveways and television antennas sprung up on roofs of brand-new houses in thousands of subdivisions around the country, we were in the midst of a treacherous war of nerves.

Deep inside our intelligence services and even within the President's own cabinet were cadres of career government officers working - some knowingly, some not - for the Soviet Union by carrying out policies devised inside the KGB. Some of the position papers that came out of these offices made no sense otherwise. We also knew the CIA had been penetrated by KGB moles, just as we knew that some of our own policy makers were advocating ideas that would only weaken the United States and lead us down the paths that served the best interests of our enemies.

A handful of us knew the awful truth about Korea. We lost it not because we were beaten on the battlefield but because we were compromised from within. The Russian advisers fighting alongside the North Koreans were given our plans even before they reached those of us on Mac Arthur's staff. And when we threw our host technology into the field and into the air, the Soviets had already formulated plans to capture it and take it back to Russia. When the time came to talk peace at Panmunjom and negotiate a POW exchange, I knew where those Americans were, ten miles north of the border, who wouldn't be coming home. And there were people right inside our own government who let them stay there, in prison camps, where some of them might be alive to this very day.

So General Trudeau gave me his very grim smile and said, as he walked me toward the locked dark olive military file cabinet on the wall of his private office, "I need you to cover my back, Colonel. I need you to watch because what I'm going to do, I can't cover it myself. "

Whatever Trudeau was planning, I knew he'd tell me in his own time. And he'd tell me only what he thought I needed to know when I needed it. For the immediate present, I was to be his special assistant in R &D, one of the most sensitive divisions in the whole Pentagon bureaucracy because that was where the most classified plans of the scientists and weapons designers were translated into the reality of defense contracts. R &D was the interface between the gleam in someone's eye and a piece of hardware prototype rolling out of a factory to show its potential for the army brass. Only it was my job to keep it a secret while it was developed.

"But there's something else I want you to do for me, Phil, " General Trudeau continued as he put his hand on top of the cabinet. "I'm going to have this cabinet moved downstairs to your office. "

The general had put me in an office on the second floor of the outer ring directly under him. That way, as I would soon find out, whenever he needed me in a hurry I could get upstairs and through the back door before anybody even knew where I was.

"This has some special files, war materiel you've never seen before, that I want to put under your Foreign Technology responsibilities, " he continued.

My specific assignment was to the Research & Development Division's Foreign Technology desk, what I thought would be a pretty dry post because it mainly required me to keep up on the kinds of weapons and research our allies were doing. Read the intelligence reports, review films of weapons tests, debrief scientists and the research people at universities on what their colleagues overseas were doing, and write up proposals for weapons the army might need.

It was important and it had its share of cloak and dagger, but after what I'd been through in Rome chasing down the Gestapo and SS officers the Nazis left behind and the Soviet NKVD units masquerading themselves as Italian Communist partisans, it seemed like a great opportunity to help General Trudeau keep some of the army's ideas out of the hands of the other military services. But then I didn't know what was inside that file cabinet.

The army generally categorized the types of weapons research it was doing into two basic groups, domestic and foreign. There was the research that sprang out of work going on in the United States and research by people overseas. I knew I'd be keeping track of what the French were doing with advanced helicopter design and whether the British would be able to build a practical vertical takeoff and landing fighter, something we'd given up on after World War II. Then there was the German big gun, the V3, granddaughter of Big Bertha that the Germans threatened Paris with during the First World War. We'd found the barrel assemblies of the German artillery pieces near Calais after we invaded Normandy and knew that the Nazis were working on something that, like their jet engine fighter and new Panzer tank, could have changed the outcome of the war if they'd held us off any longer at the Battle of the Bulge.

I was responsible for developing this technology, ideas we hadn't come up with ourselves, and work up recommendations for how we could incorporate this into our weapons planning. But I didn't know why the general kept on patting the top drawer of that file cabinet.

"I'll get to those files right away if you like, General," I said. "And write up some preliminary reports on what I think about it."

"It's going to take you a little longer than that, Phil," Trudeau said.

Now he was almost laughing, something he didn't do very much in those days. In fact, the only time I remember him laughing that way was after he heard that his name had been put up to command the U.S. forces in Vietnam. He also heard that they wanted me to head up the intelligence section for the Army Special Forces command in Vietnam. We both knew that the army mission in Vietnam was headed for disaster because it was a think-tank war. And the people in the think tank were more worried about restraining the army than in wiping out the Vietcong. So Trudeau had a plan:

"We'll either win the war or get court-martialed," he said. "But they'll know we were there." And he laughed when he said that the same way he was laughing as he told me to take my time with the contents of the file cabinet. "You'll want to think about this before you start writing any reports," he said.

I couldn't help but pick up the nervousness in his voice, forcing itself through his laughter, the same sound over the phone that got me nervous when I heard it the first time. There really was something here he wasn't telling me.

"Is there something else about this I should know, General?" I asked, trying not to show any hesitation in my voice. Business as usual, nothing out of the ordinary, nothing anybody can throw my way that I can't handle.

"Actually, Phil, the material in this cabinet is a little different from the run-of-the-mill foreign stuff we've seen up to now," he said. "I don't know if you've ever seen the intelligence on what we've got here when you were over at the White House, but before you write up any summaries maybe you should do a little research on the Roswell file."

Now I'd heard more about Roswell than I was ready to admit right on the spot my first day at the Pentagon. And there were more wild stories floating around about Roswell and what we were still doing there than anyone could have imagined. But I hadn't made the connection between the Roswell files and what was in the cabinet General Trudeau was talking about. Basically I had hoped after Fort Riley that it would all go away and I could simply stick my head in the sand and worry about things I could get my brain around like bureaucratic in fighting

inside Washington instead of little aliens inside sealed coffins.

The general didn't wait for me to answer him. He left me standing there in his office and walked out to the reception room, where I heard him giving orders into a speaker phone. He had barely clicked off the speaker and walked back to where I was standing when four enlisted men pulling a hand truck showed up, saluted, and stood there at attention while Trudeau kept looking at me. He didn't say anything. He turned to the enlisted men instead. "Load up this cabinet on that dolly and follow the colonel to his office on the second floor. Don't stop for anybody. Don't talk to anybody. If anyone stops you, you tell them to see me. That's an order. "

Then he turned back to me.

"Why don't you take some time with this, Phil. " He paused. "But not too much time. Sergeant" - he turned his attention back to the enlisted man with the shortest haircut - "please see the colonel back to his own office below. "

They loaded the file cabinet onto the dolly as if there were nothing inside, pulled it toward the back door, and stared at me until I followed them out. "Not too much time, Colonel, " General Trudeau called after me as we went out the door and down the hall.

I remember I spent quite a while just looking at that cabinet after it was loaded off the dolly and set up in my inner office. There was an almost ominous quality to it that belied its quiet, official army presence. So I must confess that, given the reverse hype of the general's introduction, part of me wanted to tear it open right away as if it were a present on Christmas morning. But the part of me that won just let it sit there, protected, until I thought about what General Trudeau had said about Roswell and the amount of paper work that had circulated through the White House when I was on the National Security staff there. No, I wasn't going to review the Roswell files. Not just yet. Not until I took a long hard look at what was inside this file cabinet. But even that was going to wait until the rest of my office was set up. Whatever I was supposed to do, I wanted to do it right.

I spent a little time pacing around my new office while I thought some more about what the general said, why this file was waiting for me in his private office, and why he had wanted to talk to me specifically about it. It also wasn't lost on me that I had not seen one scrap of paper from the general covering his delivery of the material to me nor my receipt of it. It could have just as easily been that this file cabinet didn't even exist. As far as I knew, only his eyes and soon my eyes would review it. So whatever it was, it was serious and, only if by omission, very secret.

I remembered a hot July night fourteen years before at Fort Riley when I was the young intelligence officer after having just been shipped back from Rome. I remembered being hustled into a storage hangar by one of the sentries, a fellow member of the Fort Riley bowling team. What he pointed to under the thick olive tarp that night was also very, very secret, and I held my breath, hoping that what was inside this cabinet wasn't anything like what I saw that night in Kansas, July 6, 1947.

I opened the cabinet, and almost immediately my heart sank. I knew, from looking at the shoebox of tangled wires and the strange cloth, from the vise-like headpiece and the little wafers that looked like Ritz crackers only with broken edges and colored a dark gray, and from an assortment of other items that I couldn't even relate to the shapes and sizes of things I was familiar with, that my life was headed for a big change. Back in Kansas that night in July, I told myself that I was seeing an illusion, something that if I wished real hard, didn't have to

exist for me.

Then, after I went to the White House and saw all the National Security Council memos describing the “incident” and talking about the “package” and the “goods, “ I knew that the strange figure I’d seen floating in liquid in a casket within a casket at Fort Riley wasn’t just a bad dream I could forget about. Nor could I forget about the radar anomalies at the Red Canyon missile range or the strange alerts over Ramstein air base in West Germany. I only hoped all of it would never catch up with me again and I could go through the rest of my army career in some kind of peace. But it was not to be. There, mangled like somebody else’s junk, were the trinkets I knew would involve me in something deeper than I had ever wanted. Whatever else I had to do in this life, here was a job that would change it all.

You know how in the movies when Bud Abbott would open a closet, see the dead body hanging there, close the closet door, open it up again, and find the body gone? That’s what I actually did with the file cabinet. Nobody was there to see me, or so I believed, so I opened it, closed it, opened it again. But this was no movie and the stuff was still there.

So here it was, some of the material they’d recovered from Roswell. And now, just like a bad penny, it turned up again. I heard footsteps outside my door and caught my breath. There were always sounds in the Pentagon at night because the building was never empty. Somewhere, in some office, in parts of the building most people don’t even know about, some group is planning for a war we hope we will never fight. Therefore, more than any other building except for the White House, the Pentagon is a place where someone is always walking around after something.

General Trudeau peeked his head around the door.

“Look inside?” he asked.

“What’d you do to me, General?” I said. “I thought we were friends. “

“That’s why I gave you this, Phil, “ he said, but he wasn’t laughing, wasn’t even smiling. “You know how valuable this property is? You know what any of the other agencies would do to get this into their hands?”

“They’d probably kill me, “ I said.

“They probably want to kill you anyway, but this makes them even more rabid. The air force wants it because they think it belongs to them. The navy wants it because they want anything the air force wants. The CIA wants it so they can give it to the Russians. “

“What do you want me to do, General?” I asked. I couldn’t figure out what he was thinking unless he thought I should just bury the stuff and leave it at that.

“I need a plan from you, “ he said. “Not simply what this property is, but what we can do with it. Something that keeps it out of play until we know what we have and what use we can make of it. “

This had all the makings of a plot, pure and simple.

“Look, who’s our biggest problem?” I asked, but it was a proforma question because I already knew the answer.

“The same people who lost Korea for us and who you had to fight over at the White House,” he said. “You know exactly who I mean. We got to keep whatever’s valuable here from falling into the wrong hands because as sure as we’re standing in this Pentagon, it’ll find its way right to the Kremlin. “

There were people floating around Washington right at that very moment who, even out of the most well meaning intentions they could muster, would have shipped this Roswell file over to Russia while patting President Kennedy on the back and congratulating him for contributing to

world peace. Just as there were people who would have cut Trudeau's and my throat and left us right on the rug to bleed to death while they packed that file away. Either way, Trudeau didn't have to quote me chapter and verse to explain that he was handing me one of the most important assignments I would ever receive from him. He was giving me the keys to a whole new kingdom, but neither he nor I knew what in the world we could do with this stuff, short of keeping it out of the hands of the Russians. At the very least, that was a start.

"We have to know what we have first, " I said.

"Then that's your job right away. What do we have? Anything usable here? Put together people you can trust from the specialists we have and go over the contacts at our defense contractor lists. And this is only part of the property we have. There's some more of it downstairs in the file basement that the other intelligence agencies don't know anything about. Came here from New Mexico instead of going out to Ohio. Don't ask me why. It's coming up to you right now in boxes. Just put everything together, take some time, and evaluate this for me. "

"Anybody know I have this?" I asked.

"Everybody knows that if you're poking around something it's got to be important," he said.

"So don't act like the cat that ate the canary. They're watching you as much as they're watching me. "

Then he walked to the doorway, looked down both ends of the hall, and turned back to me.

"But move this thing along, because we could be out of this office in under a year and I don't want to have to worry about running out of time on this. "

And he was gone in a heartbeat, as if we'd never had the conversation.

I didn't take the file apart that night, even after another nondescript wooden crate that looked like something you ship vegetables in was carted to my office by an equally nondescript army corporal. I didn't go through the material the next night, either. But over the following week, whenever I could be sure that no one was around who could pop in without warning, I moved the material from the box into the file and allowed myself time to look at it. It was just like falling through the looking glass into a different world, a puzzle of separate pieces that only vaguely captured what had been in the memos I'd read over at the White House.

No wonder no one had really wanted anything to do with this junk, which held out the promise of a whole world we knew nothing about but that as far back as 1947, the government had decided to keep an absolute secret.

Career after career of anyone in government who even hinted at the big dark secret of Roswell was pulverized by whoever was behind this operation. And, although I knew far more than I had even admitted to myself, I would never be the one to shoot off my mouth. But now this file, what I would eventually call the "nut file" to General Trudeau, had come into my possession, and as the ensuing weeks turned into a month, I gradually figured out where some of the puzzle pieces fit.

First there were the tiny, clear, single filament, flexible glass like wires twisted together through a kind of gray harness as if they were cables going into a junction. They were narrow filaments, thinner than copper wire. As I held the harness of strands up to the light from my desk, I could see an eerie glow coming through them as if they were conducting the faint light and breaking it up into different colors. When the personnel at the retrieval site in the desert outside of Roswell pulled this piece out of the wreckage of the delta shaped object, they thought it was some sort of wiring device -a harness is what they said - or maybe some

of them thought it was a junction box or electrical relay.

But whatever they thought it was, they believed there was nothing like it on this planet. As I turned the object over in my hand, I figured, from the way the individual filaments flexed back and forth but didn't break and the way they were able to conduct a light beam along their length, they were a wire of some sort. But for what purpose I didn't have a clue.

Then there were the thin two-inch-around matte gray oyster cracker shaped wafers of a material that looked like plastic but had tiny road maps of wires barely raised/etched along the surface. They were the size of a twenty-five-cent piece, but the etchings on the surface reminded me of squashed insects with their hundred legs spread out at right angles from a flat body.

Some were more rounded or elliptical. It was a circuit - anyone could figure that out by 1961, especially when you put it under a magnifying glass - but from the way these wafers were stacked on each other, this was a circuitry unlike any other I'd ever seen. I couldn't figure out how to plug it in and what kind of current it carried, but it was clearly a wire circuitry of a sort that came from a larger board of wafers on board the flying craft. My hand shook ever so slightly as I held these pieces, not because they themselves were scary but because I was awed, just for a few seconds, about the momentous nature of this find. It was like an architectural treasure trove, the discoveries of some long departed culture, a Rosetta stone, even though whoever crashed onto the desert floor was still very active and roaming around our most secret army and air force bases.

I was most interested in the file descriptions accompanying a two piece set of dark elliptical eye pieces as thin as skin. The Walter Reed pathologists said they adhered to the lenses of the extraterrestrial creatures' eyes and seemed to reflect existing light, even in what looked like complete darkness, so as to illuminate and intensify images in the darkness to allow their wearer to pick out shapes.

The reports had said that the pathologists at Walter Reed hospital who autopsied one of these creatures tried to peer through them in the darkness to watch the one or two army sentries and medical orderlies walking down a corridor adjacent to the pathology lab. These figures were illuminated in a greenish orange, depending upon how they moved, but the pathologists could see only their outer shape. And when they got close to each other, their shapes blended into a single form. But they could also see the outlines of furniture and the wall and objects on desktops.

Maybe, I thought as I read this report, soldiers could wear a visor that intensified images through the reflection and amplification of available light and navigate in the darkness of a battlefield with as much confidence as if they were walking their sentry posts in broad daylight. But these eyepieces didn't turn night into day, they only highlighted the exterior shapes of things.

There was a dull, grayish-silvery foil-like swatch of cloth among these artifacts that you could not fold, bend, tear, or wad up but that bounded right back into its original shape without any creases. It was a metallic fiber with physical characteristics that would later be called "supertenacity," but when I tried to cut it with scissors, the arms just slid right off without making even a nick in the fibers. If you tried to stretch it, it bounced back, but I noticed that all the threads seemed to be going in one direction. When I tried to stretch

it width wise instead of length wise, it looked like the fibers had reoriented themselves to the direction I was pulling in. This couldn't be cloth, but it obviously wasn't metal. It was a combination, to my unscientific eye, of a cloth woven with metal strands that had the drape and malleability of a fabric and the strength and resistance of a metal. I was on top of some of the most secret weapons projects at the Pentagon, and we had nothing like this, even under the wishlist category.

There was a written description and a sketch of another device, too, like a short, stubby flashlight almost with a self-contained power source that was nothing at all like a battery. The scientists at Wright Field who examined it said they couldn't see the beam of light shoot out of it, but when they pointed the pencil-like flashlight at a wall, they could see a tiny circle of red light, but there was no actual beam from the end of what seemed like a lens to the wall as there would have been if you were playing a flashlight off on a distant object. When they passed an object in front of the source of the light, it interrupted it, but the beam was so intense the object began smoking.

They played with this device a lot before they realized that it was an alien cutting device like a blowtorch. One time they floated some smoke across the light and suddenly the whole beam took shape. What had been invisible suddenly had a round, micro thin, tunnel-like shape to it. Why did the inhabitants of this craft have a cutting device like this aboard their ship? It wasn't until later, when I read military reports of cattle mutilations in which entire organs were removed without any visible trauma to the surrounding cell tissue, that I realized that the light beam cutting torch I thought was in the Roswell file was actually a surgical implement, just like a scalpel, that was being used by the aliens in medical experiments on our livestock.

Then there was the strangest device of all, a headband, almost, with electrical signal pickup devices on either side. I could figure out no use for this thing whatsoever unless whoever used it did so as a fancy hair band. It seemed to be a one size fits all headpiece that did nothing, at least not for humans. Maybe it picked up brain waves like an electroencephalogram and projected a chart. But no private experiment conducted on it seemed to do anything at all. The scientists didn't even determine how to plug it in or what its source of power was because it came with no batteries or diagrams.

There were nights I'd spread these articles all around me as if they were indeed Christmas presents. There were nights when I'd just take one thing out and turn it around until I almost memorized what it looked like from different angles before putting it back. The days were passing and, without having been told directly by Trudeau, I knew that he was getting anxious. We'd sit at meetings together when other people were around and he couldn't say anything, and I could almost hear his insides burst. There were times when we were alone and Trudeau almost didn't want to broach our shared secret.

Outside the Pentagon there was a battle starting up all over again set to rage just as it had during the Truman and Eisenhower presidencies. Whose intelligence was accurate? Whose was truthful? Who was trying to manipulate the White House and who believed that by coloring or twisting fact that he could change the course of history? John Kennedy was leading a young administration capable of making extraordinary mistakes. And there were people at the heart of his administration whose own views of how the world should work were inspiring them to distort facts, misstate intentions, and disregard obvious realities in the hope that their views would prevail.

Worse, there were those, deep within a secret government within the government, who had been placed there by the spymasters at the Kremlin. And it was those individuals we had the greatest reason to fear. Right now, Army R &D had stewardship over these bits and pieces of foreign technology from Roswell. How long we would have them I did not know. So, over a late night pot of coffee in General Trudeau's office, he decided that we would move this material out, out to defense contractors, out to where scientists would see it and where, under the guise of top secrecy, it would be in the system before the CIA could stow it where no one would find it except the very people we were trying to hide it from.

"This is the devil's plan, General, " I said to Trudeau that night. "What makes you think we can get away with it?"

"Not we, Phil, " he said. "You. You're the one who's going to get away with it. I'll just keep them off your back long enough until you do. "

Now, all I could think about was what I'd seen that night in 1947 and, worse, what in the world I was going to do with all this stuff next. I'd asked myself "why me?" hundreds of times since that night in the Pentagon. And asked why after fourteen years and my experience at Fort Riley I had become the inheritor of the Roswell file. But I had no answers then and no answers now. If General Trudeau had meant for this to happen when he took over R &D three years before I got there, I'll never know. He never gave me any reasons, only orders. But since he was the master strategizer, I sometimes think he believed I must have had some experience with alien encounters and wouldn't be spooked by working with the technology from the Roswell file.

I never asked him about it, as strange as that seems, because the military being what it is, you don't ask. You simply do. So, now as then, I don't question. I only remember that I went forward from that night to put into development as much of the Roswell file as I could and believed that whatever happened, I was doing the right thing.

2.2.4 Roswell and Research and Development (2023-02-01 22:53)

...the pentagon never sleeps.

And neither did I in those first few weeks at the R &D Foreign Technology desk as I racked my brain to come up with a strategy I could recommend to my boss. Amidst the constant twenty four hour motion of an office building where someone is always working, I spent more time at my desk than I did at home. Evenings, weekends, early mornings before the sunrise set the windows across the river in Washington an orange blaze, you could find me staring at the four drawer file cabinet against my corner wall. I'd fiddle with the combination lock, sometimes so absorbed in coming up with a strategy for these strange artifacts that I'd forget the sequence of numbers and have to wait until my brain reset itself.

And always, just outside my office was the pent up urgency of crisis, the cocked trigger of a military machine always poised to attack anywhere, anytime, at the sound of a voice on the other end of a scrambled phone behind the soft colored walls of an inner office along the miles of corridors on the inner or outer ring.

You think of the Pentagon as something of an amorphous entity with a single mind set and a single purpose. It's probably the same way most people see the structure of the American military: one army, one goal, everybody marches together. But that's almost totally false. The American military - and its home office, the Pentagon is just like any other big business with hundreds of different bureaus, many in direct and explicit competition with each other for the same resources and with different agendas and tactical goals. The separate military branches have different goals when it comes to how America should be defended and wars fought, and it's not uncommon for differences to emerge even within the same branch of the service.

I was plunged right into this in my first weeks back in D.C. Debates were still going on from World War II, sixteen years before, and all of this formed the backdrop of Roswell. There was a huge wrangling within the navy between the aircraft carrier advocates from World War II and the submariners under Adm. Hyman Rickover, who saw the big flat tops as herds of elephants, slow and vulnerable. Subs, on the other hand, running almost forever on nuclear fuel, could slip deep beneath the sea, lay a thousand or so miles off enemy territory, and blast away at his most vulnerable targets with multiple warhead ICBMs. No way our enemies would escape destruction as long as we had our submarine fleet.

So who needs another aircraft carrier with its screen of destroyers and other escorts when just one sub can deliver a knockout punch anywhere, anytime, without enemy orbiting intel satellites snapping pictures of its every move? Look what our subs did to the Japanese in the Pacific; look what the German U-boats did to us in the Atlantic. But you couldn't convince the navy brass of all that in the 1960s.

Like the navy, the air force had different advocates for different goals, and so did the army. And when there are competing agendas and strategies articulated by some of the best and brightest people ever to graduate from universities, war colleges, and the ranks of officers, you have hard nosed people playing high stakes games against one other for the big prizes: the lion's share of the military budget. And, at the very center of it all, the place where the dollars get spent, are the weapons development people who work for their respective branches of the military.

And that's right where I was in the early days of 1961 shortly after John F. Kennedy came to town to begin his new administration. I had only just returned to Washington from the front lines of a war that nobody thought of as a real war except for us, the guys who were there. It was easier during a real war, like Korea. Your objective is to push the other guy back as far as you can, kill as many of his people as you can, and force him to surrender. You have a very pragmatic strategy: You try it and if it works you keep on doing it until it stops working.

But on the front lines in Germany, where the battles were only fought with electron beams, threats, and feints, you had to assess how many soldiers might be killed or how many planes you could bring down if the shooting were to start for real. For Americans this was the Cold War, the combined military machines of two massive superpowers each capable of obliterating each other the moment either one perceived a material weakness in the other's ability to retaliate.

So you had a chess game played and replayed every day around the world in scores of different war rooms where different scenarios were formulated to see who would win. It was all a game of numbers and strategies with different armed services around the world winning

and losing battles on computers - very elegant and precise. But what very few people outside of government knew was that the Cold War was really a Hot War, fought with real bullets and real casualties, only no one could step forward to admit it because the front lines were within the very government capitals of the countries that were fighting it. I saw this with my own eyes right here in Washington, where the war had been going on since 1947.

So with the sides drawn and tensions between the various bureaus and services within the Pentagon, it didn't take me long in those first few weeks to learn the politics of my new job. With the field reports, scientific analyses, medical autopsies, and technological debris from the Roswell crash I had under lock and key, my first rule was to be as circumspect as possible, draw no attention to myself. I'd learned this skill when I served on MacArthur's staff in Korea ten years earlier: I had to be the little man who wasn't there. If people don't think you're there, they talk. That's when you learn things.

And within those first few weeks I saw and learned a lot about how the politics of the Roswell discovery had matured over the fourteen years since the crash and since the intense discussions at the White House after Eisenhower became president. Each of the different branches of the military had been protecting its own cache of Roswell - related files and had been actively seeking to gather as much new Roswell material as possible. Certainly all the services had their own reports from examiners at Walter Reed and Bethesda concerning the nature of the alien physiology.

Mine were in my nut file along with the drawings. It was pretty clear, also, from the way the navy and air force were formulating their respective plans for advanced military technology hardware, that many of the same pieces of technology in my files were probably shared by the other services. But nobody was bragging because everybody wanted to know what the other guy had. But since, officially, Roswell had never happened in the first place, there was no technology to develop.

On the other hand, the curiosity among weapons and intelligence people within the services was rabid. Nobody wanted to come in second place in the silent, unacknowledged alien technology development race going on at the Pentagon as each service quietly pursued its version of a secret Roswell weapon. I didn't know what the air force or navy had or what they might have been developing from their respective files on Roswell, but I assumed each service had something and was trying to find out what I had.

That would have been a good intelligence procedure. If you were in the know about what was retrieved from Roswell, you kept your ears open for snippets of information about what was being developed by another branch of the military, what was going before the budget committees for funding, or what defense contractors were developing a specific technology for the services. If you weren't in the Roswell loop, but were too curious for your own good, you could be spun around by the swirling rumor mill that the Roswell race had kicked up among competing weapons development people in the services and wind up chasing nothing more than dust devils that vanished down the halls as soon as you turned the corner on them.

There were real stories, however, that wouldn't go away no matter how many times somebody official stepped up to say the story was false. For example, I picked up the rumors pretty quickly concerning the UFO the air force was supposed to be keeping at Edwards Air Force Base in California and the research they were conducting on the spacecraft's technology, especially its electromagnetic wave propulsion system. There were also rumors circling around

the air force about the early harvesting of Roswell technology in the design of the allowing bombers, but I didn't know how much stock to put in them.

The army had been developing an all-wing design since right after World War I, and within a year after the Roswell crash Jack Northrop's company began test flights of their YB49 flying wing recon/bomber models. The YB49's quadruple vertical tail fins were so uncannily reminiscent of the head on Roswell craft sketches in our files that it was hard not to make a connection between the spacecraft and the bomber. But the flying wing's development took place over ten years before I got to the Foreign Technology desk, so I had no direct evidence relating the bomber to the spacecraft.

General Trudeau was right, though, when he said that people at the Pentagon were watching Army R &D because they thought we were onto something. People wanted to know what Foreign Technology was working on, especially the more exotic things in our portfolio just to make sure, the memos read, that we weren't duplicating budgetary resources by spending twice or three times for the same thing. There was a lot of talk and pressure from the Joint Chiefs of Staff about technology sharing and joint weapons development, but my boss wanted us to keep what we had to ourselves, especially what he jokingly kept calling "the alien harvest. "

As if the eyes of the other military services weren't enough, we also had to contend with the analysts from the Central Intelligence Agency. Under the guise of coordination and cooperation, the CIA was amalgamating as much power as it could. Information is power, and the more the CIA tried to learn about the army weapons development program, the more nervous it made all of us at the center of R &D.

Acquaintances of mine in the agency had dropped hints, shortly after I took over the Foreign Technology desk, that if I needed any intelligence about what other countries were developing, they could help me out. But one hand washes the other, and they dropped hints that if I had any clues about where any stray pieces of "the cargo, " or "the package" as the Roswell artifacts were commonly referred to within the military, might be found, they would surely appreciate it if I let them know. After the third time my CIA contacts bumped into me and whispered this proposal for exchanges of information into my ear, I told my boss that our friends might be anxious about what we had.

"You really put me on the hot seat, General, " I said to Trudeau over one of our morning briefings at the end of my first month on the job. I was still working on the strategy for the nut file and, thankfully, my boss hadn't pressured me yet to come up with recommendations for the plan. But it was coming. "How does the CIA know what we have?"

"They're guessing, I suppose, " he said. "And figuring it out by the process of elimination. Look, everybody suspects what the air force has. "

Trudeau was right. In the rumor bank from which everybody in the Pentagon made deposits and withdrawals, the air force was sitting on the Holy Grail - a spaceship itself and maybe even a live extraterrestrial. Nobody knew for sure. We knew that after it became a separate branch of the military in 1948, the air force kept some of the Roswell artifacts at Wright Field outside of Dayton, Ohio, because that's where "the cargo" was shipped, stopping off in Fort Riley along the way. But the air force was primarily interested in how things fly, so whatever R &D they worked on was focused on how their planes could evade radar and out fly the Soviets no matter where we got the technology from.

"And, " he continued, "I'm sure the agency fellows would love to get into the Naval Intelligence files on Roswell if they've not done so already. "

With its advanced submarine technology and missile launching nuclear subs, the navy was

struggling with its own problem in figuring out what to do about UUOs or USOs - Unidentified Submerged Objects, as they came to be called. It was a worry in naval circles, particularly as war planners advanced strategies for protracted submarine warfare in the event of a first strike. Whatever was flying circles around our jets since the 1950s, evading radar at our top secret missile bases like Red Canyon, which I saw with my own eyes, could plunge right into the ocean, navigate down there just as easy as you please, and surface halfway around the world without so much as leaving an underwater signature we could pick up.

Were these USOs building bases at the bottom of oceanic basins beyond the dive capacity of our best submarines, even the Los Angeles-class jobbies that were only on the drawing boards? That's what the chief of Naval Operations had to find out, so the navy was occupied with fighting its own war with extraterrestrial craft in the air and under the sea.

That left the army.

"But they don't know for sure what we have, Phil, " Trudeau continued. He'd been talking the whole time. "And they're busting a gut to find out. "

"So we have to keep on doing what we do without letting them know what we have, General, " I said. "And that's what I'm working on. "

And I was. Even though I wasn't sure how we'd do it, I knew the business of R &D couldn't change just because we had Roswell crash artifacts in our possession.

However we were going to camouflage our development of the Roswell technology, it had to be within the existing way we did business so no one would recognize any difference. We operated on a normal defense development projects budget of well into the billions in 1960, most of it allocated to the analysis of new weapons systems. Just within our own bureau we had contracts with the nation's biggest defense companies with whom we maintained almost daily communication. A lot of the research we conducted was in the improvement of existing weapons based on the intelligence we received about what our enemies were pointing at us: faster tanks, heavier artillery, improved helicopters, better tasting MREs.

At the Foreign Technologies desk, we kept an eye on what other countries were doing, ally or adversary, and how we could adapt it to our use. The French, the Italians, the West Germans, all of them had their own weapons systems and streams of development that seemed exotic by our standards yet had certain advantages. The Russians had gotten ahead of us in liquid rocket propulsion systems and were using simpler, more efficient designs.

My job was to evaluate the potential of the foreign technology and implement whatever we could. I'd get photos, designs, and specs of foreign weapons systems, like the French helicopter technology, for example, and bring it to American defense companies like Bell, Sikorsky, or Hughes to see whether we could develop aspects of it for our own use. And it was the perfect cover for protecting the Roswell technology, but we still had to figure out what we wanted to do with it. It couldn't simply stay in file cabinets or on shelves forever.

What we had retrieved from the Roswell crash and had managed to hold on to was probably the most closely guarded secret the army had. Yet it was nothing more than an orphan. Up until 1961, the army had come up with no plan to use the technology without revealing its nature or its source and in so doing blow the cover on the single biggest secret the government was keeping. There was no one bureau within the army charged with managing Roswell and other aspects of UFO encounters, as there was in the air force, and therefore nobody was keeping any public records of how the army got its hands on its Roswell technology in the first

place and, consequently, no oversight mechanism.

Everything up until 1961 was catch-as-catch-can, but now it had to change. General Trudeau was looking for the grand end game development scheme. It began with researching the history of how the whole file - the field reports, autopsy information, descriptions of the items found in the wreckage, and the bits and pieces of Roswell technology themselves - came into the possession of Army R &D.

Luckily enough for me, the whole Roswell story was still unknown outside the highest military circles in 1961. Retired major Jesse Marcel, the intelligence officer at the 509th who had been at the crash site in July 1947 and who had given the initial reports of a spacecraft, would not yet tell his story in public for at least another ten years. Everyone else connected to the incident was either dead or sworn to silence.

The air force, which moved quickly to take over management of the Roswell affair and ongoing UFO contacts and sightings, still kept everything they learned highly classified under the Air Force Intelligence Command and waged a push and pull war with the CIA for information about sightings and ongoing contacts with anything extraterrestrial. These really weren't my concerns yet, but they would be.

My research was not concerned with the crash at Roswell itself, nor at Corona or at San Agustin - if those crashes did, in fact, occur in early July 1947 - but on the day after Roswell, the day Bill Blanchard from the 509th crated up the alien debris and shipped it to Fort Bliss, where Gen. Roger Ramey's staff determined its final disposition and the official government history of the event began to unfold.

In the early hours after the cargo arrived in Texas, there was so much confusion about what was found and what wasn't found that army officers, who were in charge of the entire retrieval operation, quickly scraped together both a cover story and a plan to silence all the military and civilian witnesses to the recovery. The cover story was easy. General Ramey ordered Maj. Jesse Marcel to recant his "flying saucer" story and pose for a news photo with debris from a weather balloon, which he described as the wreckage the retrieval team recovered from outside Roswell. Marcel followed orders and the flying saucer officially became a weather balloon.

The silencing of military witnesses was also accomplished easily enough through top-down orders from General Ramey to everyone at the 509th and at Fort Bliss to deny that they were a part of any operation to recover anything other than a balloon. Once the material left Ramey's command and arrived at Lt. Gen. Nathan P. Twining's Air Materiel Command at Wright Field, all General Ramey had to do was keep denying what he was already denying and it was no longer his responsibility. Now it belonged to General Twining, from whose desk a whole new era of army involvement with the Roswell material began.

General Ramey treated the incident as a threat to national security and deployed whatever forces he could to bring the material back for evaluation and to suppress any rumors that might light a brushfire of panic. Therefore, Ramey used the counter intelligence personnel already posted to the 509th and ordered them deployed into the civilian community as well as the military to use any means necessary to suppress the story of the crash and retrieval. No news should be allowed to get out, no speculation was to be tolerated, and the story already circulating about a crashed flying saucer had to be quashed.

By the next morning, July 8, the suppression of the crash story was in full operation.

The army had already issued a new cover story to the press by the time CIC officers had gotten to the witnesses and, using threats and outright promises of cash, forced them to recant their statements about what they saw. Rancher Mac Brazel, who first said he had been at the site during the recovery and had described the strange debris, disappeared for two days and then showed up in town driving a new pickup truck and denying he'd ever seen anything. CIC officers turned up at people's houses and spoke quietly to parents about what their children had learned. Whatever people thought was happening, army personnel said, wasn't, and it would have to stay that way.

"You didn't see a thing, " they ordered. "Nothing happened here. Let me hear you repeat that."

The silencing worked so well that for the next thirty years the story seemed to have been swallowed up by the quiet emptiness of desert where all things are worn down to a fine grade of sameness. But belying the quiet that settled over Roswell, a thousand miles away, part of the U.S. military went on wartime alert as bits and pieces of the craft reached their destinations. One of those destinations, Lt. Gen. Nathan Twining's desk at Wright Field, was the focal point from which the Roswell artifacts would reach the Foreign Technology desk at the Pentagon.

Among the first of the army's top commands notified of the events unfolding in Roswell in early July would have had to have been Lieutenant General Twining's Air Materiel Command at Wright Field, where the Roswell debris was shipped. Nathan Twining has become important to UFO researchers because of his association with a number of highly secret meetings at the Eisenhower White House having to do with the national security issues posed by the discovery of UFOs and his relationship to National Security Special Assistant Robert Cutler, who was the liaison between the NSC and President Eisenhower when I was on the NSC staff in the 1950s.

The silver-haired General Twining was the point man for initial research and dissemination of Roswell related materials and, partly because of the capability with which he administered the vital AMC at Wright, he became part of an ad hoc group of top military and civilian officials assembled by President Truman to advise him about the Roswell discovery and its national security implications.

General Twining had been scheduled to travel to the West Coast in early July 1947, but he canceled the trip, remaining in New Mexico at the army's air base at Alamogordo until at least July 10. Alamogordo was important not just because it was the nation's nuclear weapons test site in the 1940s and 1950s but because it was also a field office of the AMC itself, where rocket scientists Wernher von Braun and others were primarily based. Close by was the White Sands guided missile base, where some of our military's most advanced tracking and embryonic targeting radars were deployed. These were sensitive installations, especially during the UFO activity that week, and it made perfect sense that immediately after the recovery of the UFO the army general whose responsibility it would have been to manage the retrieval was almost directly on-site conferring with his top scientists.

Although I never saw the actual memos from President Truman to General Twining regarding his trip to New Mexico, I had heard stories about secret orders that Truman had issued to General Twining directing him to New Mexico to investigate the reports of the crash and to report directly to the White House on what he'd found. I believe that it was General Twining's initial report to the President that confirmed that the army had retrieved something from the desert and might have suggested the need for the formation of an advisory group

to develop policy about whatever was discovered. And, remember, in those first forty-eight hours, nobody really knew what this was.

By the time the Roswell debris had been shipped out of Fort Bliss and had arrived at Wright Field, General Twining had flown back from New Mexico to Wright to oversee the analysis and evaluation of the Roswell treasure trove. Twining moved quickly once back at his office. The alien bodies had to be autopsied in utmost secrecy and the spacecraft and its contents analyzed, cataloged, and prepared for dissemination to various facilities within the military. In as much as everything about the crash was given the highest security classification, stories had to be prepared for those with lower security classifications but whose contributions could be important to the creation of a credible cover story.

The official camouflage was almost as important to the military in 1947 as it was in 1961 when I took over. It was important because as far as the army was concerned, 1947 was still wartime, a Cold War, perhaps, but war nevertheless, and stories about military hardware as valuable as the material retrieved from Roswell could not be disclosed for fear that the Soviets would exploit it. Thus, from day 1, the army treated its retrieval of the debris as if it were an operation conducted in a wartime theater under battle conditions. Roswell became military intelligence.

General Twining had seen the material for himself, and even before he returned to Wright Field, he'd conferred with the rocket scientists who were part of his brain trust at Alamogordo. Now, during the remainder of the summer months, he quietly compiled a report that he would deliver to President Truman and an ad hoc group of military, government, and civilian officials, who would ultimately become the chief policy makers for what would become an ongoing contact with extraterrestrials over the ensuing fifty years. And as stories of the Roswell crash and other UFO sightings around U.S. military bases began to filter in through the command chain of the armed services, General Twining also needed to establish a lower security channel along which he could exchange information with other commands that were not cleared all the way to the top.

General Twining still reported to higher ups who, though they may not have had the security clearance he had with regard to extraterrestrial contact, nevertheless were his commanding officers and routinely sought information from the AMC. Accordingly, General Twining needed to maintain a quasi cover-up even within the military.

The first of these reports was transmitted from General Twining to the commanding general of Army Air Forces in Washington, dated September 23, 1947. Written to the attention of Brig. Gen. George Schulgen, Twining's memo addressed, in the most general of terms, the official Air Materiel Command's intelligence regarding "flying discs. " He drew a remarkable number of conclusions, most of which, I had to surmise when I was on Eisenhower's National Security Council and then again when I got to the Pentagon, were based on Twining's own first hand experience with the sighting reports from Roswell and other sighting reports as well as the materials themselves, which were in the military's possession.

Flying saucers or UFOs are not illusions, Twining says, referring to the sighting of strange objects in the sky as "something real and not visionary or fictitious. " Even though he cites the possibility that some of the sightings are only meteors or other natural occurrences, he says that the reports are based upon real sightings of actual objects" approximating the shape of a disc, of such appreciable size as to be as large as man made aircraft. " Considering that

this report was never intended for public scrutiny, especially in 1947, Twining marveled at the aircrafts' operating characteristics and went on record, drawing major conclusions about the material he had and the reports he'd heard or read.

But, when he wrote that the extreme maneuverability of the aircraft and their "evasive" actions when sighted "or contacted" by friendly aircraft and radar led him to believe that they were either "manually, automatically, or remotely" flown, he not only suggested a guided flight but imparted a hostile intent to their evasive maneuvers to avoid contact. His characterization of the aircrafts' behavior revealed, even weeks after the physical encounter, that those officers in the military who were now running the yet-to-be-codenamed extraterrestrial contact project already considered these objects and those entities who controlled them a military threat.

He described the aircraft as it had been reported in the sightings:

a "light reflective or metallic surface, "

"absence of a trail except in those few instances when the object was operating under high performance conditions, "

"circular or elliptical in shape, flat on bottom and domed on top, "

flights in formation consisting of from "three to nine objects, "

and no sound except for those instances when "a substantial rumbling roar was noted. "

The objects moved quickly for aircraft at that time, he noted to General Schulgen, at level flight speeds above three hundred knots.

Were the United States to build such an aircraft, especially one with a range of over seven thousand miles, the cost, commitment, administrative and development overhead, and drain on existing high technology projects required that the entire project should be independent or outside of the normal weapons development bureaucracy. In other words, as I interpreted the memo, Twining was suggesting to the commander of the Army Air Force that were the airforce, which would become a separate branch of the military by the following year, to attempt to exploit the technology that had quite literally dropped into its lap, it had to do so separately and independently from any normal weapons development program.

The descriptions of the super secret projects at Nellis Air Force Base or Area 51 in the Nevada desert seem to fit the profile of the kind of recommendation that General Twining was making, especially the employment of the "skunk works" group at Lockheed in the development of the Stealth fighter and B2 bomber.

Not revealing to the Army Air Forces command that Twining himself had been ordered to visit bases in New Mexico in the hours after the crash, the general advised his bosses that the military should consider whether the flying disks were of domestic origin, "the product of some high security project" already developed by the United States outside of normal channels, or developed by a foreign power that "has a form of propulsion possibly nuclear, which is outside of our domestic knowledge. " At the same time, weaving a cover story that takes him out of the loop of reporting any of these flying disks as a first hand observer, Twining writes that there is a "lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove the existence of these objects. "

But, even though General Twining has just written that there is no evidence, he nevertheless recommends to his superiors that:

Headquarters, Army Air Forces issue a directive assigning a priority, security classification and

Code Name for a detailed study of this matter to include the preparation of complete sets of all available and pertinent data which will then be made available to the Army, Navy, Atomic Energy Commission, JRDB, the Air Force Scientific Advisory Group, NACA, and the RAND and NEPA projects for comments and recommendations, with a preliminary report to be forwarded within 15 days of receipt of the data and a detailed report thereafter every 30 days as the investigation develops. A complete interchange of data should be effected.

This was an important part of the memo, at least for me and my research into how the army got the Roswell rife, because it accounted for the army's dissemination of the Roswell materials and accompanying reports within only a couple of months after the material's arrival at Wright Field. When General Twining suggested to his commanding officers at AAF that all the military branches as well as existing government and civilian commissions needed to share this information, the dispersal of the materials was already under way. This is how the technology came into the possession of Army R &D.

Finally, the general promised the Army Air Forces command that the Air Materiel Command would continue to investigate the phenomenon within its own resources in order to define its nature further and it would route any more information it developed through channels. Three days after the memo, on September 26, 1947, General Twining gave his report on the Roswell crash and its implications for the United States to President Truman and a short list of officials he convened to begin the management of this top-secret combination of inquiry, police development, and "ops." This working group, which included Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, Dr. Vannevar Bush, Secretary James Forrestal, Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Dr. Detlev Bronk, Dr. Jerome Hunsaker, Sidney W. Souers, Gordon Gray, Dr. Donald Menzel, Gen. Robert M. Montague, Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner, and Gen. Nathan Twining himself, became the nucleus for an ongoing fifty-year operation that some people have called "Majestic-12."

At the Eisenhower White House, it was simply referred to as "the group," and in the days after Roswell it went into operation just as smoothly as slipping your new 1949 Buick with its "Dynaflow" automatic transmission into drive and pulling away from the curb. In this way General Twining had carefully orchestrated a complete cover-up of what had happened at Roswell as well as a full scale, top-secret military R &D operation to identify the nature of the phenomenon and assess its military threat to the United States. It was as elegant as it was effective.

But the plan didn't stop with the creation of the working group - in fact, the operation very quickly developed into something far more sophisticated because General Twining's "flying discs" simply wouldn't go away. As more information on sightings and encounters came rolling in through every imaginable channel, from police officers taking reports from frightened civilians to airline pilots tracking strange objects in the sky, the group realized that they needed policies on how to handle what was turning into a mass media phenomenon. They needed a mechanism for processing the thousands of flying saucer reports that could be anything from a real crash or close encounter to a couple of bohunks tossing a pie tin into the air and snapping its picture with their Aunt Harriet's Kodak Brownie.

The group also had to assess the threat from the Soviet Union and Iron Curtain countries, assuming of course that flying saucers weren't restricted to North America, and gather intelligence on what kinds of information our allies had on flying saucers as well. And it still had to process the Roswell technology and figure out how it could be used. So from the original group there developed a whole tree structure of loosely confederated committees and subgroups, sometimes complete organizations like the air force Project Blue Book, all kept

separate by administrative firewalls so that there would be no information leakage, but all controlled from the top.

With the initial and ongoing stories safely covered up, the plans for the long term reverse engineering work on the Roswell technology could begin. But who would do it? Where would the material reside? And how could the camouflage of what the military was doing be maintained amidst the push for new weapons, competition with the Soviets, and the flying saucer mania that was sweeping the country in the late 1940s?

General Twining had a plan for that, too. Just a little over a year after the initial group meetings at the White House, Air Force Intelligence, now that the air force had become a separate service, issued a December 1948 report - 100-203-79 - called "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S." in which UFOs are never referred to as extraterrestrial objects but as elements of "foreign technology," which is actually the subject of the report. The report, innocuous to most people because it doesn't say that flying saucers came from outer space, is actually one of the first indications showing how the camouflage plan was supposed to work over the ensuing years.

The writers of the report had located within the existing military administrative structure the precise place where all research and development into the flying disk phenomenon could be pursued not only under a veil of secrecy but in the very place where no one could be expected to look: the Foreign Technology desk. Here, the materials could be deposited for safe keeping within the military while army and air force brass decided what our existing industrial and research technology allowed them to do. There could be as weapons failed, secret experiments without fear of exposure, and, most importantly, an ongoing discussion of how the United States could develop this treasure trove of engineering information, all within the very structure where it was supposed to take place. Just don't call it extraterrestrial; call it "foreign technology" and throw it into the hopper with the rest of the mundane stuff the foreign technology officers were supposed to do.

And that's how, twelve years later, the Roswell technology turned up in an old combination locked military file cabinet carted into my new Pentagon office by two of the biggest enlisted men I'd ever seen.

2.2.5 Roswell and the Cover up (2023-02-01 22:54)

The Cover-up while General Twining was flying back and forth from Ohio to New Mexico, on the other side of the world in Moscow, Chairman Josef Stalin was furious. Red-faced and not even trying to hide the rage that erupted like an exploding volcano, Stalin held up a copy of the Roswell Daily Record for Tuesday, July 8, 1947, and threw it out onto the center of the table for any of the scientists in the room who could read English. Stalin didn't need an American newspaper to tell him what his NKVD agents on the ground at Alamogordo reported weeks before: that a U.S. Army retrieval team had pulled a crashed alien spacecraft out of the New Mexico desert and was already evaluating the valuable technology they'd recovered.

At first, when the Soviet intelligence bosses got the reports from their agents at the American bases, they were more than skeptical. They figured the stories were plants, false

information to flush out the Soviet spies the Americans suspected had infiltrated their most secret bases. If the Soviet government reacted to the disinformation, the American counter intelligence agents would be able to determine the path of the story and isolate the spies. But when newspapers began reporting the crash, then covered it up with stories about weather balloons, the Soviets knew they had stumbled onto the real thing. So it was true, Stalin told the group, the Americans had actually gotten their own flying saucer. Now, he asked, what would they do with it?

One of the chief designers of the Soviet's embryonic liquid-fuel-rocket program was at the meeting. He, like many of the Soviet engineers who'd read the German secret weapons files at the end of the war, knew exactly where the Americans should have been in their guided-missile-development program. What information his bosses in the Kremlin thought he still needed to know, they gave him from the reports they received from agents in the field. But nothing, nothing about the V2 launches at White Sands, nothing about the new tracking radars at Alamogordo gave the scientists in the Soviet rocket program any indications the Americans were even an iota ahead of them in guided missiles until he heard the news of the Roswell crash.

Both the Russian and American missile programs were based almost entirely upon the German weapons research spoils that the Allies were dividing up even before the end of the war. I was a firsthand participant in this, secreting out German weapons scientists through Italy after we occupied Rome as part of a secret operation code named "Paper Clip" that began in 1944. With V2 designers Wernher von Braun, Willy Ley, and others running experiments on the German missiles we brought back to the United States, the army had successfully appropriated much of the German advanced weapons research and was carrying on experiments in New Mexico. The Soviets also got their own share of German technology through their own intelligence agents and local Communist Party cells in occupied countries.

And what a technology it was. The Germans had developed a crescent shaped jet powered flying wing, jet powered Messerschmitts that blazed by our P51s as if they were standing still, and a U boat launched VI/V2 that, had the Germans been able to hide even a small flotilla off the American East Coast, could have bombed out much of heavily concentrated downtown Washington in a matter of hours. All they needed to buy was enough time to deploy their weapons and get their U-boats in position. And that was their strategy toward the end of 1944 when they turned around and counter attacked through Belgium in the dead of winter and pinned us down at the Battle of the Bulge.

Break our advance on the ground, blast us out of the air with their new jets, bomb North American cities, and knock Britain out of the war. With their new weapons they could have fought us to a stand still and won a bitter truce. Both the Americans and the Soviets wanted to get their hands on those German weapons, especially the V2s.

Stalin didn't have to worry much about who held the advantage in German weaponry after the war. Both sides were about equal. But this flying saucer crash, that was a different matter, and it meant that in an instant the United States could have gained an enormous advantage in the Cold War weapons race that had begun only moments after the Germans surrendered. What might that advantage be? The Russian liquid fuel engineer wondered aloud. What could the Americans have retrieved from that crash?

Soviet agents reported that the townspeople in Roswell had talked about little creatures

at the crash site and a crescent shaped aircraft that the army hauled away on trucks, but the stories had been quickly silenced by military counter intelligence. So any real intelligence on what the Americans might be developing would have to come from Soviet agents deep inside the U.S. government. Stalin would order it. And, as if they were activated by an invisible switch, spies from one of the most efficient and ruthless intelligence machines in the world began homing in on the American military bases associated with the Roswell retrieval and the key American military and civilian personnel the Russians knew would have to be involved.

The Americans might not have been the most efficient spy catchers in 1947, but Army Counter intelligence had been put on alert even before the Soviets knew that a flying saucer had been retrieved. Starting from the central point at the nexus of sensitive New Mexico bases during the summer of 1947, CIC agents questioned anybody who seemed interested in learning about what happened in Roswell. Ask too many questions and knocking at your door would be a couple of plain clothes investigators who didn't need a search warrant to rummage through your things. So maybe the army was a little overzealous about their interrogation procedures, but by early August it began producing results. By the time General Twining was writing his report to Army Air Forces command in Washington, both Army and Navy Intelligence commanders knew that the Soviets had a high priority operation in place at military bases around the country.

Soviet agents were everywhere. Central Intelligence group director Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, a member of President Truman's advisory group on UFOs, informed the president. A top down counter intelligence operation had to be put in place immediately, here commended, or every plan the military had to evaluate what they'd retrieved from Roswell would be compromised. There were a million questions. Were these flying objects the prelude to something much bigger? Were they communicating with the Soviets? Were they allied with the Soviets? Were they probing our defenses for a planetary invasion? We had already assumed that the behavior of these aircraft was hostile, but what did they want?

Meanwhile, other reports of civilian flying saucer sightings were turning up in newspapers and coming in through local police. Even airline pilots were seeing strange lights. There wasn't much time to act. A secret this big about flying saucers was bound to get out and cause untold panic among the civilian population unless an elaborate camouflage was established. And worse, we had to keep the Soviets away from this until we knew what we had. We needed a plan, and right away.

Some have said it was Secretary of Defense James Forrestal's idea. Others said the whole scheme belonged to Central Intelligence director Hillenkoetter. I, frankly, don't know first hand because when the plan was hatched I was sweating out the end of the summer at Fort Riley, still trying to shake out of my mind the image of that ghoulishly unearthly thing I'd seen floating in its container. But whoever said it first was saying the obvious, according to the people on Eisenhower's National Security staff whom I worked with six years later. Maybe it was Forrestal after all who was the only person in the cabinet who could have spoken to Truman that bluntly just a little over two years after the man had inherited the office from FD Rand was already a very unpopular president.

"It's like this, " I had heard President Truman was told. "We're in a real pickle here. Nate Twining says he doesn't know what the hell this thing is except that if the Soviets get a hold of it, it'll change the shape of things to come for sure. "

"You fellas going to write up some report for me?" the President asked.

"General Twining says he'd rather do it as a briefing, sir, for the time being, " Admiral Hil-

lenkoetter suggested.

"For your ears only. Then we have to have a working task group to manage this whole issue. " Maybe the working group, whatever it was going to be called, would come up with a report analyzing the situation as soon as they reviewed what General Twining was putting under lock and key at Wright field, but nobody wanted to speculate until they knew what was there.

"Maybe you should sit down with General Twining first, " both Forrestal and Hillenkoetter suggested. They knew that Harry Truman liked to get first hand reports from people who had seen the situation with their own eyes. FDR was corporate and knew how to digest reports. He trusted his subordinates. But Truman was different. He knew how to run a haberdashery store; if a hat didn't fit he'd have to go back to the factory to find out why. It was the same with General Twining, who'd been at the crash sites himself. If Truman wanted answers, he'd have to see it through the eyes of someone who'd been there.

"Does he know what these SOBs are after?" Truman asked, referring to the aliens in the crashed saucer.

"That's one of the questions we want to address, " they said.

"How do you plan to do it?"

Forrestal and Hillenkoetter explained that they wanted the President to hear what General Twining had to say and then convene a group of military, civilian, and intelligence personnel with strong old school ties of trust for one another. In this way whatever decisions they made wouldn't have to be memoed all over the place, thus risking the possibilities of leaks and tip-offs to the Soviets.

"We don't want the newspapers or radio people getting their hands on any of this either, " they told the President.

"Winchell would crucify me with this if he found out what we were doing, " Truman was reported to have said at that meeting.

Nobody in the know liked President Truman very much, and he could appreciate it.

"It's just like the Manhattan Project, Mr. President, " Admiral Hillenkoetter reminded him. "It was war. We couldn't tell anyone. This is war. Same thing. "

Then they explained that after they had convened a working group, they would task out the research of the technology while keeping it from the Soviet spy machine already operating at full bore within the government.

"We hide it from the government itself, " the secretary explained.

"Create a whole new level of security classification just for this, "the Central Intelligence director said. "Any information we decide to release, even internally, we down grade so the people getting the information never have the security clearance that allows them all the way to the top. The only way to hide it from the Russians is to hide it from ourselves. "

But the President was still thinking about the difficulties of keeping an operation this far reaching out of the news, especially when flying saucers had become one of the hottest new items to talk about. What was he supposed to say when people ask the government about the flying disk stories? he asked, pressing for details that still had to be established. How could they research these strange creatures without the news getting out? And how could they analyze the wealth of physical material Hillenkoetter had described to him without bringing people from outside government? President Truman simply didn't see how this government within a government camouflage idea could work without the whole thing spinning out of control. Despite Forrestal's assurances, the president remained skeptical.

"And there's one final point, " Truman was said to have brought up to his Central Intelligence group director and secretary of defense. It was a question so basic that its apparent naivete belied an ominous threat that it suggested was just over the horizon. "Do we ever tell the American people what really happened?" There was silence.

Don't ask me how I know. My old friend and enemy from the KGB wouldn't tell me how he knew, and I didn't press him. But, accept it as fact from the only source that could know, just as I did back when I was told, that neither the secretary of defense nor the director of intelligence had considered a disclosure like this as even a remote possibility.

"Well, " President Truman said. "Do we?"

On November 7, 1944, the day FDR was elected to his fourth and final term, his chief adviser, Harry Hopkins, had described the new vice president Harry Truman as a man who couldn't block a hat but who shouldn't be underestimated. And James Forrestal, the man to whom he was speaking at the time, now understood what he meant as the secretary sat across from the now President Harry Truman.

This was a basic yes/no question, and although Forrestal and Hillenkoetter had a knee jerk reflex answer, "no, " Forrestal quickly saw that it wasn't that easy. As wartime administrators their first response was naturally to disclose nothing, abiding by the old saw that what the people don't know, they don't need to know. But President Truman, who had not come from a military background, had seen something neither Forrestal nor Hillenkoetter had seen. If these ships could evade our radar and land anywhere at will, what would stop them from landing in front of the White House or, for that matter, the Kremlin? Certainly not the U.S. Army Air Force.

"So what do we say when they land, " I'm told that Truman continued, "and create more panic in the streets than if we'd disclosed what we think we know now?"

"But we really don't know anything, " the director of intelligence said. "Not a thing until we analyze what we've retrieved. "

But both the secretary of defense and director of intelligence agreed with President Truman that he was right to be skeptical, especially on his final point about disclosure.

"So can we postpone coming to any conclusions at least until after you've meet with General Twining?"

Admiral Hillenkoetter asked. "I think he'll provide some of the answers we're all looking for. " While Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter and James Forrestal were briefing President Truman on their plan for the working group, Gen. Nathan P. Twining was completing his preliminary analysis of the reports and material sent to Wright Field. Almost immediately, he dispatched the remains of the aliens to the Bethesda Naval Hospital and the Walter Reed Army Hospital for further analysis by the two military services.

The aircraft itself remained at Wright Field but, as he would promise in his memo to the Army Air Forces command, General Twining was preparing to distribute the material from the wreckage among the different military and civilian bureaus for further evaluation. He'd already been cautioned by Admiral Hillenkoetter that new security classifications had been put in place regarding the Roswell intelligence package. No one within the military other than names he would receive from the President himself had the full security clearance to learn the complete story. about Roswell that Twining would deliver to the President and other members of a working group.

Within three months after he'd been dispatched to New Mexico to learn what had happened at Roswell, General Twining met with President Truman, as Hillenkoetter and Forrestal had suggested, and explained exactly what he believed the army had pulled out of the desert. It was almost beyond comprehension, he described to the President, nothing that could have come from this planet. If the Russians were working on something like this, it was so secret that not even their own military commanders knew anything about it, and the United

States would have to establish a crash program just to prepare a defense. So it was Twining's assessment that what they found outside of Roswell was, in his words, "not of this earth. "

Now President Truman had heard it, he told Forrestal after Twining had left for Ohio, "directly from the horse's mouth, " and he was convinced. This was bigger than the Manhattan Project and required that it be managed on a larger scale and obviously for a longer period.

The group proposed by Forrestal and Hillenkoetter had to consider what they were really managing and for how long. Were they only trying to keep one secret - that an extraterrestrial alien spaceship crashed at Roswell - or were they hiding what would quickly become the largest military R &D undertaking in history, the management of what would become America's relationship with extraterrestrials?

General Twining had made it clear in his preliminary analysis that they were investigating the whole phenomenon of flying disks, including Roswell and any other encounter that happened to take place. These were hostile entities, the general said, who, if they were on a peaceful mission, would have not avoided contact by taking evasive maneuvers even as they penetrated our airspace and observed our most secret military installations.

They had a technology vastly superior to ours, which we had to study and exploit in case they turned more aggressive. If we were forced to fight a war in outer space, we would have to understand the nature of the enemy better, especially if it came to preparing the American people for an enemy they had to face. So investigate first, he suggested, but prepare for the day when the whole undertaking would have to be disclosed.

This, Truman could understand. He had trusted Twining to manage this potential crisis from the moment Forrestal had alerted him that the crash had taken place. And Twining had done a brilliant job. He kept the lid on the story and brought back everything that he could under one roof.

He understood as Twining described to him the strangeness of the spacecraft that seemed to have no engines, no fuel, nor any apparent methods of propulsion, yet out flew our fastest fighters; the odd childlike creatures who were inside and how one of them was killed by a gunshot; the way you could see daylight through the inside of the craft even though the sun had not yet risen; the swatches of metallic fabric that they couldn't burn or melt; thin beams of light that you couldn't see until they hit an object and then burned right through it, and on and on; more questions than answers. It would take years to find these answers, Twining had said, and it was beyond the immediate capacity of our military to do anything about it. This will take a lot of man power, the general said, and most of the work will have to be done in secret.

General Twining showed photographs of these alien beings and autopsy reports that suggested they were too human; they had to be related to our species in some way. They were obviously intelligent and able to communicate, witnesses at the scene had reported, by some sort of thought projection unlike any mental telepathy you'd see at a carnival show. We didn't know whether they came from a planet like Mars in our own solar system or from some galaxy we could barely see with our strongest telescopes. But they possessed a military technology whose edges we could understand and exploit, even if only for self defense against the Soviets. But by studying what these extraterrestrials had we might be able to build a defense system against them as well.

At the very least, Twining had suggested, the crescent shaped craft looked so uncomfortably like the German Horten wings our flyers had seen at the end of the war that he had to suspect the Germans had bumped into something we didn't know about. And his conversations with Wernher von Braun and Willy Ley at Alamogordo in the days after the crash confirmed this. They didn't want to be thought of as but intimated that there was a deeper story about what the Germans had engineered.

No, the similarity between the Horten wing and the craft they had pulled out of the arroyo was no accident. We always wondered how the Germans were able to incorporate such advanced technology into their weapons development in so short a time and during the Great Depression. Did they have help? Maybe we were now as lucky as the Germans and broke off a piece of this technology for ourselves. With an acceleration capability and maneuverability we'd never seen before, this craft would keep American aircraft engineers busy for years just incorporating what they could see into immediate designs.

The issue of security was paramount, but so were questions of disclosure, the President reminded him. This thing was too big to hide and getting bigger all the time while reporters were just like dogs on a scent. So just putting a higher security classification on it and threatening anybody who came too close wasn't enough to hide a secret this big. You couldn't prevent leaks, and eventually it would all have to come out anyway. General Twining should think about that before the group made any final decisions, the President advised.

By the middle of September it was obvious to every member of President Truman's working group, which included the following:

- Central Intelligence Director Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter
- Secretary of Defense James Forrestal
- Lt. Gen. Nathan Twining of the AAF and then USAF Air Materiel Command
- Professor Donald Menzel, Harvard astronomer and Naval Intelligence cryptography expert
- Vannevar Bush, Joint Research and Development Board Chairman
- Detlev Bronk, Chairman of the National Research Council and biologist who would ultimately be named to the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics
- Gen. Robert Montague, who was General Twining's classmate at West Point, Commandant of Fort Bliss with operational control over the command at White Sands
- Gordon Gray, President Truman's Secretary of the Army and chairman of the CIA's Psychological Strategy Board
- Sidney Souers, Director of the National Security Council
- Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Central Intelligence Group Director prior to Roscoe Hillenkoetter and then USAF Chief of Staff in 1948
- Jerome Hunsaker, aircraft engineer and Director of the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics
- Lloyd Berkner, member of the Joint Research and Development Board

Unless this group established a long term plan for protecting and developing the Roswell project, the secrets would soon leak out. I understand that it was General Twining who pointed out to the group that, in fact, the story had already leaked out. It was leaked, he said, hours after the crash and then retracted. In fact, people were still talking about it in New Mexico, but after the army's weather balloon story, the national newspapers were treating the flying disk reports as the delusions of people who had seen too many Buck Rogers movies. The national press was already doing the committee's work.

What was really needed, Twining suggested, was a method for gathering the information about continuing UFO activity - especially crashes, high probability sightings by pilots or the military, or actual physical encounters with individuals - and surreptitiously filtering that information to the group while coming up with practical explanations that would turn unidentified flying disks into completely identifiable and explainable phenomena.

Under the cover of explaining away all the flying disk activity, the appropriate agencies represented by members of the working group would be free to research the real flying disk phenomenon as they deemed appropriate. But through it all, Twining stressed, there had to be a way of maintaining full deniability of the flying disk phenomenon while actually preparing the public for a disclosure by gradually desensitizing them to the potential terror of confronting a more powerful biological entity from a different world. It would have to be, General Twining suggested, at the same time both the greatest cover-up and greatest public relations program ever undertaken.

The group agreed that these were the requirements of the endeavor they would undertake. They would form nothing less than a government within the government, sustaining itself from presidential administration to presidential administration regardless of whatever political party took power, and ruthlessly guarding their secrets while evaluating every new bit of information on flying saucers they received. But at the same time, they would allow disclosure of some of the most farfetched information, whether true or not, because it would help create a climate of public attitude that would be able to accept the existence of extraterrestrial life without a general sense of panic.

"It will be, " General Twining said, "a case where the cover-up is the disclosure and the disclosure is the coverup. Deny everything, but let the public sentiment take its course. Let skepticism do our work for us until the truth becomes common acceptance. "

Meanwhile, the group agreed to establish an information gathering project, ultimately named Blue Book and managed explicitly by the air force, which would serve public relations purposes by allowing individuals to file reports on flying disk sightings. While the Blue Book field officers attributed commonplace explanations to the reported sightings, the entire project was a mechanism to acquire photographic records of flying saucer activity for evaluation and research. The most intriguing sightings that had the highest probability of being truly unidentified objects would be bumped upstairs to the working group for dissemination to the authorized agencies carrying on the research. For my purposes, when I entered the Pentagon, the general category of all flying disk phenomena research and evaluation was referred to simply as "foreign technology. "

2.2.6 Roswell crash and the Strategy (2023-02-01 22:56)

The

Strategy there is an old story I once heard about keeping secrets. A group of men were trying to protect their deepest secrets from the rest of the world. They took their secrets and hid them in a shack whose very location was a secret. But the secret location was soon discovered and in it was discovered the secrets that the group was hiding. But before every secret could be revealed, the men quickly built a second shack where they stored those secrets they still kept to themselves.

Soon,

the second shack was discovered and the group realized they would have to give up some secrets to protect the rest. So they again moved quickly to build a third shack and protect whatever secrets they could. This process repeated itself over and over until anyone wanting to find out what the secrets were had to start at the first shack and work their way from shack to shack until they came to where they could go no further because they didn't know the location of the next shack.

For

fifty years this was the very process by which the secrets of Roswell were protected by various serial incarnations of an ad hoc confederation of top-secret working groups throughout different branches of the government, and it is still going on today.

Were

you to search through every government document to find the declassified secrets of Roswell and the contact we maintained with the aliens who were visiting us before and have been doing so ever since, you would find code named project after code named project, each with its own file, security classification, military or government administration, oversight mechanism, some form of budget, and even reports of highly classified documents. All of these projects were started to accomplish part of the same task: manage our ongoing relationship with the alien visitors we discovered at Roswell. However, at each level, once the security had been breached for whatever reason -even by design - part of the secret was disclosed through declassification while the rest was dragged into a new classified project or moved to an existing one that had not been compromised.

It

makes perfect sense, especially to those of us who understand that the government is not some monolithic piece of granite that never moves or reacts. To those of us inside the military/government machine the government is dynamic, highly reactive, and even proactive when it comes to devising ways to protect its most closely held secrets. For all the years after Roswell we weren't just one step ahead of people wanting to know what really happened, we were a hundred steps ahead, a thousand, or even more. In fact, we never hid the truth from anybody, we just camouflaged it. It was always there, people just didn't know what to look for or recognize it for what it was when they found it. And they found it over and over again.

[1]

*Project
"Blue Book"*

"

was created to make the general public happy that they had a mechanism for reporting what they saw.

[2]

*Projects
"Grudge" and "Sign"*

"

were
of a higher security to allow the military to process sightings and encounter reports that couldn't easily be explained away as balloons, geese, or the planet Venus. Blue Fly and Twinkle had other purposes, as did scores of other camouflage projects like Horizon, HARP, Rainbow, and even the Space Defense Initiative, all of which had something to do with

**alien
technology.**

But no one ever knew it. And when reporters were actually given truthful descriptions of alien encounters, they either fell on the floor laughing or sold the story to the tabloids, who'd print a drawing of a large headed, almond eyed, six fingered alien. Again, everybody laughed. But that's what these things really look like because I saw the one they trucked up to Wright Field.

Meanwhile,
as each new project was created and administered, another bread crumb for anyone pursuing the secrets to find, we were gradually releasing bits and pieces of information to those we knew would make something out of it. Flying saucers did truly buzzover Washington, D.C., in 1952, and there are plenty of photographs and radar reports to substantiate it. But we denied it while encouraging science fiction writers to make movies like

*The
Man from Planet X*

to blow off some of the pressure concerning the truth about flying disks. This was called camouflage through limited disclosure, and it worked. If people could enjoy it as entertainment, get duly frightened, and follow trails to nowhere that the working group had planted, then they'd be less likely to stumble over what we were really doing. And what were we really doing?

As

General Twining

had suggested in his report to the Army Air Forces, "foreign technology" was the category to which research on the alien artifacts from Roswell was to be delegated. Foreign technology was one of the great catch all terms, encompassing everything from researching French air force engineering advances on helicopter blades to captured Russian MiGs flown in from Cuba by savvy pilots who could negotiate our southern radar perimeter better than our own pilots. So what if a few pieces of technological debris from a strange crescent shaped hovering wing turned up in an old file somewhere in the army's foreign technology files? If nobody asked about it - and nobody did because foreign technology was just too damned dull for most reporters to hang around - we didn't have to say anything about it. Besides, most foreign technology stuff was classified anyway because it dealt with weapons development we were hiding from the Soviets and most reporters knew it. Foreign technology was the absolute perfect cover. All I had to do was figure out what to do with the stuff I had. And General Trudeau wasn't in the mood to wait any longer.

"

Come on, Phil, let's go. " The general's voice suddenly filled the

room over the blown speaker hum of my desk intercom. I put down my coffee and headed up the stairway to the back door of his inner office. This was a routine that repeated itself three, sometimes four times a day. The general always liked to get briefed in person because even in the most secure areas of the Pentagon, the walls tended to listen and remember our conversations.

Our sessions were always private, and from the way our conversation bounced back and forth among different topics, if it weren't for his three stars and my pair of leaves, you wouldn't even think you were listening to a pair of army officers. It was cordial and friendly, but my boss was my boss and, even after we both retired like two old war horses put out to pasture, our meetings were never informal.

“

So now you figured out how the package arrived?” he asked me after I sat down. I had figured it out by going through all of the files I could get my hands on and tracing the path of the Roswell information from the 509th to Fort Bliss and from there to Wright Field, the dissemination point.

motioned for me to sit down and I settled into a chair. It was already ten thirty in the morning so I knew there'd be at least two other sit down briefings that day.

“

I know it didn't come by the parcel service, “ I said. “I don't think they have a truck that big. “

“Does that help you figure out what we should do?” he asked.

Actually, knowing how the material got into the Foreign Technology files was critically important because it meant that it was dispatched there originally. Even if it had been neglected over the years, it was clear that the Foreign Technology desk of the R &D system was its intended destination, part of the original plan. And I even had the documents from General Twining's own files to substantiate this. Not that I would have ever revealed them at that time.

General Twining

, more than anyone else during those years after the war, understood the sensitive and protected nature of the R &D budget. And now that I understood how the camouflage was to take place, I also saw how brilliant the general's plan was. R &D, although important and turning over records like topsoil from the Nazi weapons development files captured after the war, was kind of a backwater railroad junction.

Unnoticed by most officers on their way to the top and not called upon in the late 1940s to do much more than record keeping, it turned out to be the perfect hideaway when the CIA hirelings came sniffing through the Pentagon in the early 1950s looking for anything they could find on the Roswell technology. Unless they were part of the working group from the start, not even

members of the Eisenhower White House National Security staff knew that R &D was the repository of Roswell artifacts. I was there. I can vouch for that. In fact, it wasn't until I saw the files for myself and reverse traced their path to my doorstep that I realized what General Twining and the working group had accomplished. By the time I had arrived at the White House, though, it was all ancient history. People were more worried about the sighting information deluging

*Project
Blue Book*

every day than they were about the all but forgotten story of Roswell.

But my mind was drifting and the general was still speaking. He wanted to know what my research had uncovered and what I had learned about Roswell during my years at the White House, what I'd seen, how far the concentric circles of the group and the people who worked for them went.

"

Phil,
we both know that the package you have is no surprise, " he said very flatly.

I didn't respond substantively, and he didn't expect me to, because to do so would have meant breaching security confidentiality that I'd sworn to maintain when I was assigned to the NSC staff at the White House.

“

You

don't have to say anything officially, “ he continued. “And I don't expect you to. But can you give me your impressions of how people working for the group talked about the package?”

“I

wasn't working for the group, General, “ I said. “And whatever I saw or heard was only because it happened to pass by, not because I was supposed to do anything about it. “

But

he pushed me to remember whether the NSC staff had any direct dealings with the group and how much the Central Intelligence staffers at the White House pressed to get any information they could about what the group was doing. Of course I remembered the questions going back and forth about what might have happened at Roswell, about what was really behind Blue Book, and about all those lights buzzing the Washington Monument back in 1952. I didn't have anything substantive to tell my boss about my involvement, but his questions helped me put together a bigger picture than I thought I knew.

From

my perspective in 1961, especially after reviewing everything I could about what happened in the days after the Roswell crash, I could see very clearly the things that I didn't understand back in 1955. I didn't know why the

CIA

was so aggressively agitated about the repeated stories of flying saucer sightings or why they kept searching for any information about the technology from Roswell. I certainly didn't volunteer any

information, mainly because nobody asked me, about having seen parts of “the cargo” as it passed through Fort Riley. I just played position, representing the army as the military member of the National Security Staff, but I listened to everything I heard like a fly on the wall.

General

Trudeau’s questions forced me to ask myself what the big picture was that he saw. He was obviously looking for something in my descriptions of the architecture of the group, as I had learned it from my review of the history, and of the starters on the lower security classification periphery as I understood it from my experience at the White House. He really wanted to know how the bureaucracy worked, how much activity the group itself generated, what kinds of policy questions came up in my presence, and whether I was asked to comment informally on anything having to do with the issues of the group.

Did

Admiral Hillenkoetter host many briefings for President Eisenhower where Generals Twining, Smith, Montague, and Vandenburg were present? Gen. W. B. Smith had replaced Secretary Forrestal after he committed suicide during the second year of the Truman administration. Were Professor Menzel and Drs. Bush and Berkner visitors to the White House on regular occasions? Did they meet at the White House with Admiral Hillenkoetter or the generals? What was the level of presence of the CIA staffers at the White House through all of this? And did I recognize anyone from the Joint Research and Development Board or the Atomic Energy Commission at any briefings chaired by Admiral Hillenkoetter?

Through

General Trudeau's questions I could see not only that the general knew his history almost as well as I did about how the original group was formed and how it must have operated, but he also had a sense of what kind of problem was facing the military R &D and how much leeway he had to solve it. Like most ad hoc creations of government, the group must have at some point become as self-serving as every other joint committee eventually became the longer it functioned and the more its job increased. As the camouflage about flying disks grew, so did the role of the group.

Only

the group didn't have the one thing most government committees had : the ability to draw upon other areas of the government for more resources. This group was above top secret and, officially, had no right to exist. Therefore, as its functions grew over the next ten years to encompass the investigations of more flying saucer sightings and the research into more encounters with alien aircraft or with the extraterrestrials themselves, its resources became stretched so thin that it had to create reasons for drawing upon other areas of the government.

Accordingly, task-defined subgroups were formed to handle specific areas of investigation or research. These had to have had lower security classifications even if only because the number of personnel involved couldn't have been cleared that quickly to respond to the additional work the group was taking on. In fact, the work of the group must have become unmanageable. Bits and pieces of information slipped out, and the group had to determine what it could let go into the public record and what had to be protected at all costs. As in the story about the shacks, the group members retreated to create new protected structures for the information they had to preserve.

The

official camouflage was sagging under the weight of the information the group had to investigate and the pressure of time they were allotted. Soon the military representatives found, just as we did in Korea, that they really couldn't trust the career intelligence people, especially the CIA, because they seemed to have a different agenda. Maybe the military became resistant to giving up all the information it was collecting independently to the central group? Maybe, in the absence of any actual legislation establishing how the group's work was to be paid for, the military saw valuable and fundable weapons opportunities slip through its fingers to the CIA's budget? Maybe - and I know this is what happened - a power struggle developed within the group itself.

The

whole structure of the working group had changed, too, since the late 1940s when it was formed. What started out as a close-knit group of old friends from prep school had become an unmanageable mess within five years. Many pieces of the pie were floating around, and the different military branches wanted to break off chunks of the black budget so that you needed an entire administration just to manage the managers of the cover-up.

Therefore,

at some point near the middle of the Eisenhower administration, seams opened up in the grand camouflage scheme where nobody knew what anybody else was doing. Because of the cover-up, nobody really had a need to know, so nobody knew anything. The only people who wanted to get their hands on information and hardware belonged to the CIA, but nobody, even those who vaguely understood what had happened fourteen

years earlier, trusted the CIA. Officially, then, nobody knew nothing and nothing happened.

Through the 1950s a cascade effect developed. What had started out as a single-purpose camouflage operation was breaking up into smaller units. Command and control functions started to weaken and, just like a submarine that breaks up on the bottom of the ocean, debris in the form of information bubbled to the surface. Army CIC, once a powerful force to keep the Roswell story itself suppressed, had weakened under the combined encroachments of the CIA and the FBI. It was during this period that my old friend

**J.
Edgar Hoover**

, never happy at being kept out of any loop, jumped into the circle and very quietly began investigating the Roswell incident. This shook things up, and very soon afterward, other government agencies - the ones with official reporting responsibilities - began poking around as well.

For all intents and purposes, the original scheme to perpetrate a camouflage was defunct by the late 1950s. Its functions were now being managed by series of individual groups within the military and civilian intelligence agencies, all still sharing limited information with each other, each pursuing its own individual research and investigation, and each - astonishingly - still acting as if some super intelligence group was still in command. But, like the Wizard of Oz, there was no super intelligence group. Its functions had been absorbed by the groups beneath it. But nobody bothered to tell anyone because a super group was never supposed to exist officially in the first place.

That
which did not exist officially could not go out of existence
officially. Hence, right through the next forty years, the remnants
of what once was a super group went through the motions, but the real
activities were carried out by individual agencies that believed on
blind faith that they were being managed by higher-ups. Remember the
lines of cars at gas pumps during the fuel shortage of 1973 when one
driver, thinking a gas station was open, would wait at a pump and
within fifteen minutes scores of other cars pulled up behind him?
Lines a mile long formed behind pumps that were never open because
there was no gas. That's what the great flying saucer camouflage
was like by the time President Kennedy was inaugurated.

“

There's
nobody home, Phil, “ General Trudeau told me as we compared our
notes at that morning's briefing.

“Nobody home except us.
We have to make our own policy. “

I

was a soldier and followed orders, but Trudeau was a general, the
product of a political process, stamped with congressional approval,
and reporting to a civilian executive. Generals are made by the
government, not by the army. They sit between the government and the
vast military machine and from the Army Chief of Staff all the way
down to the brigadiers at bases around the world, generals create the
way military policy is supposed to work. And on the morning of this
briefing over cups of coffee in his inner office of the third floor
of the Pentagon,

**Lieutenant
General Trudeau**

was going to make policy and do the very thing that over ten years of secret work groups and committees and research planning had failed to do:

*exploit
the Roswell technology*

.

“

I need you to tell me you found a way to make something out of this mess, “ General Trudeau told me. “There must be some piece of technology in your file that’ll make a weapon, that we can use for one of our helicopters. What do we have in there, Phil?”

Then he said. “Time is now of the essence. We have to do something because nobody else will. “

In the great cloud of unknowing that had descended upon the Pentagon with respect to the Roswell package, the five or six of us in the navy, air force, and army who actually knew what we had didn’t confide in anyone outside his own branch of the military and certainly didn’t talk to the CIA. So, in a way that could only happen inside the military bureaucracy, the cover-up became covered up from the cover-up, leaving the few of us in the know free to do whatever we wanted.

General

Trudeau and I were all alone out there in so far as the package went. Whatever vestige of the group remained had simply lost track of the material delivered to Foreign Technology fourteen years earlier. And the general was right, nobody was home and our enemies inside government were capitalizing on whatever information they could find. The Roswell package was one of the prizes, and if we didn't do anything with it, the Russians would. And they were onto us.

Our

own military intelligence personnel told us that the Soviets were trafficking so heavily in our military secrets that they knew things about us in the Kremlin before we knew them in Congress. The army at least knew the

KGB

had penetrated the

CIA

,
and the leadership of the CIA had been an integral part of the working group on flying disks since the early 1950s. Thus, whatever secrets the group thought they had, they certainly weren't secrets to the KGB.

But

here's what kept the roof from falling in on all of us. The KGB and the CIA weren't really the adversaries everybody thought them to be. They spied on each other, but for all practical purposes, and also because each agency had thoroughly penetrated the other, they behaved just like the same organization. They were all professional spies in a single extended agency playing the same intelligence game and trafficking in information. Information is power to be used. You don't simply give it away to your government's political leadership, whether it's the Republicans, the Tories, or the Communists, just because they tell you to. You can't trust the

politicians, but you can trust other spies. At least that's what spies believe, so their primary loyalty is to their own group and the other groups playing the same game. The CIA, KGB, British Secret Service, and a whole host of other foreign intelligence agencies were loyal to themselves and to the profession first and to their respective governments last.

That's

one of the reasons we in the military knew that the professional KGB leadership, not the Communist Party officers who were only inside for political reasons, were keeping as much information from the Soviet government as the CIA was keeping from our government. Professional spy organizations like the CIA and the KGB tend to exist only to preserve themselves, and that's why neither the U.S. military nor the Russian military trusted them. If you look at how the great spy wars of the Cold War played out you'll see how the KGB and CIA acted like one organization: lots of professional courtesy, lots of shared information to make sure nobody got fired, and a few human sacrifices now and then just to keep everybody honest. But when it came down to loyalty, the CIA was loyal to the KGB and vice versa.

I

believe they had a rationale for what they did. I know they thought the rest of us were too stupid to keep the world safe and that by sharing information they kept us out of a nuclear war. I believe this because I knew enough KGB agents during my time and got enough bits and pieces of information off the record to give me a picture of the Soviet Union during the 1950s and 1960s that's very different from what you'd read on the front page of the New York Times.

penetration by the KGB and what amounted to their joint spying on the military was a fact we accepted during the 1950s and 1960s, even though most of us in the Pentagon played spy versus spy as much as we could; those of us, like me, who'd gone to intelligence school during the war and knew some of the counter espionage tricks that kept the people watching you guessing. We would change our routes to work, always used false information stories as bait to test phones we weren't sure about, swept our offices for listening devices, always used a code when talking with one another about sensitive subjects. We had a counter intelligence agent in the military attaché's office over at the Russian consulate in Washington whose friends in the Soviet army trusted the KGB less than I did. If my name came up associated with a story, he'd let me know it. But he'd never tell the CIA. Believe it or not, in the capital of my very own country, that kind of information helped me stay alive.

It
was very disconcerting that the

CIA

had a tail on me all throughout my four year tenure at the White House.

I
was mad about it, but there was nothing much I chose to do. Then, when I came back to Washington in 1961 to work for General Trudeau, they put the tail back on and I led him down every back alley and rough neighborhood in D.C. that I could. He wouldn't shake. So the next day, after I told my boss what I was going to do, I led my faceless pursuer right to Langley, Virginia, past a sputtering secretary, and straight into the office of my old adversary, the director of cover operations

**Frank
Wiesner**

,
one of the best friends the KGB ever had. I told Wiesner to his face that yesterday was the last day I would walk around Washington without a handgun. And I put my .45 automatic on his desk. I said if I saw his tail on me tomorrow, they'd find him in the Potomac the next day with two bloody holes for eyes; that is, if they bothered to look for him. Wiesner said, "You won't do that, Colonel. "

But
I reminded him very pointedly that I knew where all his bodies were buried, the people he'd gotten killed through his own ineptitude and, worse, his cooperation with the Russians. I'd tell his story to everyone I knew in Congress. Wiesner backed down. Subsequently, on a trip to London, Wiesner committed suicide and was found hanging in his hotel room. I never did tell his story. Two years later in 1963, one of Wiesner's friends at the agency told me that it was "all in good fun, Phil. " Part of an elaborate recruitment process to get me into the CIA after I retired from the army. But I went to work for

**Senator
Strom Thurmond**

on the Foreign Relations Committee and then

**Senator
Richard Russell**

on the Warren Commission instead.

collective experience dodging the CIA and the KGB only meant that when General Trudeau wanted the CIA kept out of our deliberations at all cost, it was because he knew that everything we discussed would be a topic of conversation at the KGB within twenty four hours, faster if it were serious enough for the KGB to get their counterparts in the CIA to throw a monkey wrench into things.

How

do I know all this? The same way I knew how the KGB stayed one step ahead of us during the Korean War and were able to advise their friends, the North Koreans, how to hold POWs back during the exchange. We had leaks inside the Kremlin just like they had leaks inside the White House. What General Trudeau and I knew in Army R &D, our counterparts in the navy and air force also believed. The CIA was the enemy. You trust no one. So when it became clear to the general even before 1961 that no one remembered what the army had appropriated at Roswell, whatever we had was ours to develop according to our own strategy. But we had to do it so as not to allow the CIA, and ultimately our government's enemies, to appropriate it from us. So when General Trudeau said we have to run radio silent on the Roswell package, I knew exactly what he was talking about.

Logic,

and clearly not my military genius, dictated the obvious course. If nobody knows what you have, don't announce it. But if you think you can make something out of what you have, make it. Use any resources at your disposal, but don't say anything to anyone about what you're doing. The only people in the room when we came up with our plan were the general and myself, and he promised, "I won't say anything if you don't, Phil.

"

"

There's
nobody in here but us brooms, General," I answered.

So we
began to devise a strategy.

"Hypothetically, Phil, "
Trudeau laid the question out. "What's the best way to exploit
what we have without anybody knowing we're doing anything special?"

"Simple, General, " I answered. "We don't do anything
special. "

"You have a plan?" he asked.

"More of
an idea than a plan, " I began. "But it starts like this. It's
what you asked: If we don't want anybody to think we're doing
anything out of the ordinary, we don't do anything out of the
ordinary. When General Twining made his original recommendations to
President Truman and the army, he didn't suggest they do anything
with this nut file other than what they ordinarily do. Business as
usual? That's how this whole secret group operated. Nobody did
anything special. What they did was organize according to a business
plan even though the operation was something that hadn't been done
before. That's the camouflage: don't change a thing but use your
same procedures to handle this alien technology. "

"So how
do you recommend we operate?" he asked. I think he already figured
out what I was saying but wanted me to spell it out so we could start
moving my nut file out of the Pentagon and out of the encroaching
shadow of the CIA.

"We start the same way this desk has
always started : with reports, "I said. "I'll write up reports
on the alien technology just like it's an intelligence report on
any piece of foreign technology. What I see, what I think the
potential may be, where we might be able to develop, what company we
should take it to, and what kind of contract we should draw up. "

"Where will you start?" the general asked.

"I'll
line up everything in the nut file, " I began. "Everything from
what's obvious to what I can't make heads or tails out of. And
I'll go to scientists with clearance who we can trust, Oberth and
von Braun, for advice. "

"I see what you mean, " Trudeau acknowledged. "Sure. We'll lineup our defense contractors, too. See which ones have ongoing development contracts that allow us to feed your development projects right into them. "

"Exactly.

That way the existing defense contract becomes the cover for what we're developing, " I said. "Nothing is ever out of the ordinary because we're never starting up anything that hasn't already been started up in a previous contract. "

"It's

just like a big mix and match, " Trudeau described it.

"Only

what we're doing, General, is mixing technology we're developing in with technology not of this earth, " I said. "And we'll let the companies we're contracting with apply for the patents themselves. "

"Of course, " Trudeau realized. "If they own the patent we will have completely reverse-engineered the technology. "

"Yes, sir, that's right. Nobody will ever know. We won't even tell the companies we're working with where this technology comes from. As far as the world will know the history of the patent is the history of the invention. "

"It's

the perfect cover, Phil, " the general said. "Where will you start?"

"I'll write up my first analysis and recommendation tonight, " I promised. "There's not a moment to lose. "

"

The photographs in my file," I began my report that night over the autopsy reports, which I attached, show a being of about 4 feet tall. The body seemed decomposed and the photos themselves aren't of much use except to the curious. It's the medical reports that are of interest. The organs, bones, and skin composition are different from ours. The being's heart and lungs are bigger than a human's. The

bones are thinner but seem stronger as if the atoms are aligned differently for a greater tensile strength.

The skin also shows a different atomic alignment in a way that appears the skin is supposed to protect the vital organs from cosmic ray or wave action or gravitational forces that we don't yet understand. The overall medical report suggests that the medical examiners are more surprised at the similarities between the being found in the spacecraft (note:

NSC

reports refer to this creature as an

*Extraterrestrial
Biological Entity*

[

EBE

)]

and human beings than they are at the differences, especially the brain which is bigger in the EBE but not at all unlike ours.

I

wrote on into the first of many nights that year, drafting rough notes that I would later type into formal reports that no one would ever see except General Trudeau, reaching conclusions that seemed more science fiction than real. I was most happy not because I was finally working on these files but, oddly enough, because when I sat down to write, I believed these reports would never see the light of day. In the harsh reality of the everyday world, they sound, even now as I remember them, fantastic. Even more fantastic, I remember, were

the startling conclusions I allowed myself to come to. Was this really I writing, or was it somebody else? Where did these ideas come from?

If we consider similar biological factors that affect human beings, like long distance runners whose hearts and lungs are larger than average, hill and mountain dwellers whose lung capacity is greater than those who live closer to sea level, and even natural athletes whose long striated muscle alignment is different from those who are not athletes, can we not assume that the EBEs who have fallen into our possession represent the end process of genetic engineering designed to adapt them to long space voyages within an electromagnetic wave environment at speeds which create the physical conditions described by Einstein's General Theory of Relativity?

(
*Note
for the record*
:

**Dr.
Hermann Oberth**

suggests we consider the Roswell craft from the New Mexico desert not a spacecraft but a

*time
machine*

.

His
technical report on propulsion will follow.)

1. http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/sociopolitica/sociopol_bluebook.htm
 2. http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/sociopolitica/esp_sociopol_mj12_3.htm
-

2.2.7 Roswell and the EBE (2023-02-01 22:58)

Therefore, perhaps we should consider the EBEs as described in the medical autopsy reports humanoid robots rather than life forms, specifically engineered for long distance travel through space or time.

A hot Washington summer morning had already settled over the Potomac like a wet towel on the day I finished the first of my reports for General Trudeau. And what a report it was. It set the tone for all of the other reports and recommendations I was to make for the general over the next two years. It began with the biggest find we had: the alien extraterrestrial itself.

Had I not read the medical examiner's report of the alien from Walter Reed with my own eyes and reviewed the 1947 army photographs and sketches, I would have called any description of this creature pure science fiction; that is, had I not seen either this or its twin suspended in a transparent crypt at Fort Riley. But here it was again, just a yellowing sheaf of papers and a few cracked glossy prints in a brown folder sitting among scores of odds and ends, bits of debris, and strange devices in my nut file.

Even stranger to me than the medical examiner's report was my reaction: What could we exploit from this entity? I wrote the general that "whether we found an 'extraterrestrial biological entity' is not as important in the R & D arena as are the ways we can develop what we learn from it so that man can travel in space. " This quickly became the overriding concern with all of the Roswell artifacts and the general format for all of my reports. Once I swallowed back the "oh wow" aspect to all of this life altering information - and sometimes it took a very big swallow - I was still left with the job of sorting out what looked promising for R & D to develop from what seemed beyond our realistic grasp for the present. I began with the EBE.

The medical report and supporting photographs in front of me suggested that the creature was remarkably well adapted for long distance space travel. For example, biological time, the Walter Reed medical examiners hypothesized, must have passed very slowly for the

entity because it possessed a very slow metabolism, evidenced, they said, by the enormous capacities of the huge heart and lungs.

The physiology of this thing indicated that this was not a creature whose body had to work hard to sustain it. A larger heart, my ME's report read, meant that it took fewer beats than an average human heart to drive the thin, milky, almost lymphatic like fluid through a limited, more primitive looking, and apparently reduced capacity circulatory system. As a result, the biological clock beat more slowly than a human's and probably allowed the creature to travel great distances in a shorter biological time than humans.

The heart was very decomposed by the time the Walter Reed pathologists got their hands on it. It seemed to them that our atmosphere was quite toxic to the creature's organs. Given the time that passed between the crash of the vehicle and the creature's arrival at Walter Reed, it decomposed all of the organs far more rapidly than it would have decomposed human organs. This fact particularly impressed me because I had seen one of these things, if not the very one described in the report, suspended in a gel-like substance at Fort Riley.

So whatever exposure it must have had was very minimal by human standards because the medical personnel at the 509th's Walker Field got it into a liquid preservation state very quickly. Nevertheless, the Walter Reed pathologists were unable to determine with any certainty the structure of the creature's heart except to guess that because it functioned as a passive blood storage facility as well as a pumping muscle that it didn't work the same way as did a four chambered human heart. They said the alien heart seemed to have had internal diaphragm like muscles that worked less hard than human heart muscle did because the creatures were meant to survive within a reduced gravity as we understand gravity.

As camels store water, so did this creature store whatever atmosphere it breathed in the large capacity of its lungs. The lungs functioned in ways similar to a camel's humps or to our scuba tanks and released atmosphere very slowly into the creature's system. Because of the large heart and the storage function we believed it had, we also surmised that it took far less breathable atmosphere to sustain the creature, thereby reducing the need for carrying large volumes of atmosphere along on the voyage.

Perhaps the aircraft had a means of recirculating its atmosphere, recycling spent or waste air back into the craft. Moreover, because the creatures were only four or to feet tall, the large lungs occupied a far greater percentage of the chest cavity than human lungs did, further impressing the pathologists who examined the creatures' remains. This also indicated to us that perhaps we were dealing with an entity specifically engineered for long distance travel.

If we believed the heart and lungs seemed bioengineered for long distance travel so, too, was the creature's skeletal tissue. Although it was in a state of advanced decomposition, the creature's bones looked to the army medical examiners to be fibrous, actually thinner than comparable human bones such as the ribs, sternum, clavicle, and pelvis. Pathologists speculated that the bones were more flexible than human bones and had a resiliency that might be related to the function of shock absorbers. More brittle human bones might more easily shatter under the stresses these alien entities must have been routinely subjected to. However, with a flexible skeletal frame, these entities appeared well suited for potential shocks and physical traumas of extreme forces and could withstand the fractures that would cripple human space travelers in a similar environment.

The military recovery team at the Roswell site had reported that the two creatures still alive after the crash had difficulty breathing our atmosphere. Whether that was because they were suddenly tossed out of their craft, unprotected, into our gravity envelope or whether our atmosphere itself was toxic to them, we don't know. We also don't know whether the one creature who died very shortly after the crash was struggling to breathe because he was fatally wounded by gunshots or because of other reasons.

Military witnesses recounted different stories about the creature that survived and tried to run. Some said it was struggling to breathe from the moment the military had secured the area; others said that it was gasping only after it had been shot by one of the sentries. My guess was that it was the alien's sudden exposure to the earth's strong gravity that caused the creature to panic at first. That could have been one reason his breathing seemed labored. Then, after he fled and was shot, he was struggling to breathe because of his wounds. The medical examiner's report mentioned nothing about toxic gases or the kind of atmosphere he believed the creatures naturally breathed.

If the Roswell craft were a scout or surveillance ship, as the military analysts back at Wright believed, then it was also more than likely that the creatures never intended to exit the craft. This was a craft equipped with a device that was capable of penetrating our nighttime or utilizing the temperature differentials of different objects to create a visual image, enabling the occupants to navigate and observe in darkness. And because it could elude our interceptors and appear and disappear on our radar screens at will, we believed that the occupants simply stayed inside and observed rather than roamed about. Perhaps other types of craft deployed from this same culture were equipped to land and carry out missions and therefore had breathing and antigravity apparatus on board for its crew that permitted them to exit the craft without suffering any consequences. The medical examiner didn't speculate on this.

What did intrigue those who inspected the aircraft once it was shipped to Wright Field was the complete absence of any food preparation facilities. Nor were there any stored foodstuffs on board. At a time when space travel was a science fiction writer's fantasy, military analysts were already at work formulating ideas for how just such a technology could be practically implemented. It was not for travel to other planets, but for navigation around the earth because that's the technology that military planners believed the Germans were developing as an extension of their V2 rocket program.

If you're going to put airmen into earth orbit, how do you process their waste products, provide adequate oxygen, and sustain them during prolonged periods? Clearly, after you've developed a launch vehicle with enough thrust to put a craft into earth orbit, keeping it there long enough for it to accomplish a mission is the next problem to tackle. The Roswell craft seemed to have tackled it because somehow it got here from somewhere else. But there was no indication of how such household problems as food preparation and the disposal of waste were solved.

There was much speculation from the different medical analysts about what these beings were composed of and what could have sustained them. First of all, doctors were more tantalized by the similarities the creatures shared with us than they were concerned about the differences. Rather than hideous-looking insects or the reptilian man-eaters that attacked Earth in War of the Worlds, these beings looked like little versions of us, only different. It was eerie.

While doctors couldn't figure out how the entities' essential body chemistry worked, they determined that they contained no new basic elements. However, the reports that I had suggested new combinations of organic compounds that required much more evaluation before doctors could form any opinions. Of specific interest was the fluid that served as blood but also seemed to regulate bodily functions in much the same way glandular secretions do for the human body. In these biological entities, the blood system and lymphatic systems seem to have been combined. And if an exchange of nutrients and waste occurred within their systems, that exchange could have only taken place through the creature's skin or the outer protective covering they wore because there were no digestive or waste systems.

The medical report revealed that the creatures were enclosed within a one piece protective covering like a jumpsuit or outer skin in which the atoms were aligned so as to provide a great tensile strength and flexibility. One examiner wrote that it reminded him of a spider's web, which appears very fragile but is, in fact, very strong. The unique qualities of a spiderweb result from the alignment of fibers that provide great tenacity because they're able to stretch under great pressure, yet display a resiliency that allows them to snap back into shape even after the shock of an impact. Similarly, the creature's spacesuit or outer skin appeared to be stretched around it as if it were literally spun over the creature and seized up around it, providing a perfect skin-tight protective fit. The doctors had never seen anything like it before.

I think I finally understood it years later, after I had left the Pentagon and I was buying a Christmas tree. As I stood there in the frosty air, I watched as the young man who prepared the tree for transport inserted it, top first, into a stubby barrel like device that automatically spun a twine mesh covering around the branches to keep them in place for the trip home. After I got home I had to cut through the mesh with a knife to remove the tree and separate the branches. This tree set up reminded me specifically of the medical report on the creature from the Roswell crash, and I imagined that maybe the spinning process of the creature's outer garment resembled something like this.

The lengthwise alignment of the fibers in the suit also prompted the medical analysts to suggest that the suit might have been capable of protecting the wearer against the low energy cosmic rays that would routinely bombard any craft during a space journey. The interior organs of the creature seemed so fragile and oversized that the Walter Reed medical analysts imagined that without the suit the entity would have been vulnerable to the cumulative physical trauma from a constant energy particle bombardment. Space travel without protection from subatomic particle bombardment might subject the traveler to the same kind of effects he'd experience if he were cooked in a microwave oven. The particle bombardment inside the craft, if heavy enough to constitute a shower, would so excite and accelerate the creature's atomic structure that the resulting heat energy would literally cook the entity up.

The Walter Reed doctors were also fascinated by the nature of the creature's inner skin. It resembled, although their preliminary reports didn't go into any chemical analysis, a thin layer of fatty tissue unlike any they'd ever seen before. And it was completely permeable, as if it were constantly exchanging chemicals back and forth with the combination blood/lymphatic system. Was this the way the creatures nourished themselves during their journeys and was this how waste was processed? The very small mouths and the lack of a human digestive system troubled the doctors at first because they didn't know how these things were sustained. But their hypothesis that they processed chemicals released from their skin and maybe even recirculated waste chemicals would have explained the lack of any food preparation or waste

processing facilities on the craft. I speculated, however, that they didn't require food or facilities for waste disposal because they weren't actual life forms, only a kind of robot or android.

Another explanation, of course, suggested by the engineers at Wright Field, is that there would have been no need for food preparation facilities had this craft been only a small scout ship that didn't venture far from a larger craft. The creatures' low metabolism meant that they could survive extended periods away from the main craft by subsisting on some form of military prepackaged foods until they returned to base. Neither the Wright Field engineers nor the Walter Reed medical examiners had an explanation for the lack of waste disposal on board the craft, nor could they explain how the creatures' waste was processed. Maybe I was speculating too far about robots or androids when I was writing my report for General Trudeau, but I kept thinking, also, that the skin analysis that I was reading sounded more akin to the skin of a houseplant than the skin of a human being. That, too, could have been another explanation for the lack of food or waste facilities.

Much of the attention during the preliminary and later autopsies of the creatures focused on the size, nature, and anatomy of their brains. Much credence also was given to the first hand descriptions of on scene witnesses who said they received impressions from the dying creature that it was suffering and in great pain. No one heard the creature make any sounds, so any impressions, Army Intelligence personnel assumed, would have to have been created through some type of empathic projection or outright mental telepathy.

But witnesses said they heard no "words" in their mind, only the resonance of a shared or projected impression much simpler than a sentence but far more complex because they were able to share with the creature a sense not only of suffering but of profound sadness, as if it were in mourning for the others who perished on board the craft. These witness reports intrigued me more than any other information we took from the crash site.

The medical examiners believed that the alien brain, way oversized in comparison with the human brain and in proportion to the creature's tiny stature, had four distinct sections. The creatures were dead and the brains had begun to decompose by the time they were removed from the soft spongy skulls that felt to the doctors more like palatal cartilage than the hard bone of a human cranium. Even had the creatures been alive when they were examined, 1947 medical technology didn't have ultrasound scanning or the high resonance tomography of today's radiology labs.

Accordingly, there was no way for the doctors to evaluate the nature of the cranial lobes, or "spheres," as they called them in the report. Thus, despite the rampant speculation about the nature of the creatures' brains - thought projection, psychokinetic powers, and the like - no hard evidence existed of anything, and the reports were very light on real scientific data.

Where the possibility of some evidence about the workings of the alien brains did exist was in what I referred to in my reports as the "headbands". Among the artifacts we retrieved were devices that looked something like headbands but had neither adornment nor decoration of any kind. Embedded by some very advanced kind of vulcanizing process into a form of flexible plastic were what we now know to have been electrical conductors or sensors, similar to the conductors on an electroencephalograph or polygraph.

This band was fitted around the part of the alien cranium just above the ears where the

skull began to expand to accommodate the large brain. At the time, the field reports from the crash and the subsequent analysis at Wright Field indicated that the engineers at the Air Materiel Command thought these might be communication devices, like the throat mikes our pilots wore during World War II. But, as I would find out when I evaluated the device and sent it into the market for reverse-engineering, this was a throat mike only in a way that a primitive stylus can be considered the forerunner of the color laser-imaging printer.

Suffice it to say that in the few hours the material was at Walker Field in Roswell, more than one officer at the 509th gingerly slipped this thing over his head and tried to figure out what it did. At first it did nothing. There were no buttons, no switches, no wires, nothing that could even be considered to have been a control panel. So no one knew how to turn it on or off. Moreover, the band was not really adjustable, though it had enough elasticity to have been one size fits all for the creatures whose skulls were large enough to accommodate them. However, the reports I read stated, the few officers whose heads were just large enough to have made contact with the full array of conductors got the shocks of their lives.

In their descriptions of the headband, these officers reported everything from a low tingling sensation inside their heads to a searing headache and a brief array of either dancing or exploding colors on the insides of their eyelids as they rotated the device around their head and brought the sensors into contact with different parts of their skull.

These eyewitness reports suggested to me that the sensors stimulated different parts of the brain while at the same time exchanged information with the brain. Again, using the analogy of an EEC, these devices were a very sophisticated mechanism for translating the electrical impulses inside the creatures' brains into specific commands. Perhaps these headband devices comprised the pilot interface of the ship's navigational and propulsion system combined with a long range communications device.

At first I didn't know, but it was only when we began development of the long brain wave research project toward the end of my tenure at the Pentagon that I realized just what we had and how it might be developed. It took a long time to harvest this technology, but fifty years after Roswell, versions of these devices eventually became a component of the navigational control system for some of the army's most sophisticated helicopters and will soon be on the American consumer electronics market as user input devices for personal computer games.

The first Army Air Force analysts and engineers both at the 509th and at Wright Field were also bedeviled by the lack of any traditional controls and propulsion system in the crashed vehicle. Looking at their reports and the artifacts from the perspective of 1961, however, I imagined that the keys to understanding what made the craft go and directed its flight lay not only within the craft itself but in the relationship between the pilots and the craft. If we hypothesized a brainwave guidance system that was as specific to the pilots' electronic signature as it was to the spacecraft's, then we were looking at an entirely revolutionary concept of guided flight in which the pilot was the system.

Imagine transportation devices in which the key to the ignition is a digitized code derived from your electroencephalographic signature and is read automatically upon your donning some sort of sensorized headband. That's the way I believed the spacecraft was navigated, by direct interaction between the electronic waves generated within the minds of the pilots and the craft's directional controls. The electronic brain signals were interpreted

and transmitted by the headband devices, which served as interfaces.

I never managed to obtain a copy of the Bethesda autopsy of the alien body the navy received from General Twining. I only had the army report. The remaining bodies were kept in storage at Wright Field initially. Then they were split up among the services. When the air force became a separate branch of the service, the remaining bodies, stored at Wright, along with the spacecraft, were sent to Norton Air Force Base in California, where the air force began experiments to replicate the technology of the vehicle. This made sense. The air force cared about the flight capabilities of the craft and how to build defenses against it.

Experiments were carried out at Norton and ultimately at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, at the famous Groom Lake site where the Stealth technology was developed. The army cared only for the weapons systems aboard the craft and how they could be re-engineered for our own use. The original Roswell spacecraft remained at Norton, however, where the air force and CIA maintained a kind of alien technology museum, the final resting place of the Roswell spacecraft. But experiments in replicated alien craft continued to be carried on through the years as engineers tried to adapt the propulsion and navigation systems to our level of technology. This continues to this very day almost in plain sight for people with security clearance who are taken to where the vehicles are kept.

Over the years, the replicated vehicles have become an ongoing, inner circle saga among top ranking military officers and members of the government, especially the favored senators and members of the House who vote along military lines. Those who are shown the secrets are immediately bound by national secrecy legislation and cannot reveal what they saw. Thus, the official camouflage is maintained despite the large number of people who really know the truth. I admit I've never seen the craft at Norton with my own eyes, but enough reports passed across my desk during my years at Foreign Technology so that I knew what the secret was and how it was maintained.

There were no conventional technological explanations for the way the Roswell craft's propulsion system operated. There were no atomic engines, no rockets, no jets, nor any propeller driven form of thrust. Those of us in R & D from all three branches of the service tried for years to adapt the craft's drive system to our own technology, but, through the 1960s and 1970s, fell short of getting it operational. The craft was able to displace gravity through the propagation of magnetic wave, controlled by shifting the magnetic poles around the craft so as to control, or vector, not a propulsion system but the repulsion force of like charges.

Once they realized this, engineers at our country's primary defense contractors raced among themselves to figure out how the craft could retain its electric capacity and how the pilots who navigated it could live within the energy field of a wave. At issue was not only a great discovery, but the nuts-and-bolts chance to land multibillion dollar development contracts for a whole generation of military air and undersea craft.

The initial revelations into the nature of the spacecraft and its pilot interface came very quickly during the first few years of testing at Norton. The air force discovered that the entire vehicle functioned just like a giant capacitor. In other words, the craft itself stored the energy necessary to propagate the magnetic wave that elevated it, allowed it to achieve escape velocity from the earth's gravity, and enabled it to achieve speeds of over seven thousand miles per hour. The pilots weren't affected by the tremendous g-forces that build up in the acceleration of conventional aircraft because to aliens inside, it was as if gravity was being

folded around the outside of the wave that enveloped the craft. Maybe it was like traveling inside the eye of a hurricane. But how did the pilots interface with the wave form they were generating?

I reported to General Trudeau that the secret to this system could be found in the single-piece skin-tight coveralls spun around the creatures. The lengthwise atomic alignment of the strange fabric was a clue to me that somehow the pilots became part of the electrical storage and generation of the craft itself. They didn't just pilot or navigate the vehicle; they became part of the electrical circuitry of the vehicle, vectoring it in a way similar to the way you order a voluntary muscle to move. The vehicle was simply an extension of their own bodies because it was tied into their neurological systems in ways that even today we are just beginning to utilize.

So the creatures were able to survive extended periods living inside a high energy wave by becoming the primary circuit in the control of the wave. They were protected by their suits, which enclosed them head to feet, but their suits enabled them to become one with the vehicle, literally part of the wave. In 1947 this was a technology so new to us that it was as frightening as it was frustrating. If we could only develop the power source necessary to generate a consistently well defined magnetic wave around a vehicle, we could harness a technology which would have surpassed all forms of rocket and jet propulsion. It's a process we're still trying to master today, fifty years after the craft fell into our possession.

I pushed myself through the night to complete the report for the general. At least I wanted him to see that our strategy held out the probability that even in a basic evaluation of the material were covered, the seeds were there for specific products we could develop. I wanted to start the entire process by writing him a background report about the nature of the beings we'd autopsied and what we could understand of the technology from an analysis of their spacecraft.

By the time I finished, it was already just before sun up, and I looked like hell. This was the day I was going to drop my report on the general's desk, first thing. I'd snap right to attention in front of him and say, "Here's that report you were waiting for, General," confident it contained more than he ever thought it would because the subject was that new and complicated. But I wanted to be clean shaven and in a clean, crisp shirt. That's what I wanted. I didn't even need any sleep because my optimism and confidence at that moment were more powerful than anything a few hours of sleep could give me. I knew I was onto something here, something that could change the world.

Here in the basement of the Pentagon, lying close to dormancy for over a decade, were secrets my predecessors had just begun to discover before they were stopped. Maybe it had been the Korean War, maybe the CIA or other intelligence agencies had cast a pall over R & D's operation, but those days were over now. I was at the Foreign Technology desk and the responsibility for this material was mine, just like General Twining had said it should be fourteen years ago.

In those drawers I had found the puzzle pieces for a whole new age of technology. Things that were only twinkles in the minds of engineers and scientists were right here in front of me as hard, cold artifacts of an advanced culture. Craft that navigated by brain waves and floated on a wave of electromagnetic energy, creatures who look through devices that helped them turn night into day, and beams of light so narrow and focused you couldn't see them until they

bounced off an object far away.

For years scientists had thought about what it would have been like to travel in space, especially since the Russians first put up their Sputnik. Plans for a military operated moon base had been developed by the army in the 1950s under the leadership of Gen. Arthur Trudeau at R & D but were ultimately shelved because of the formation of NASA. Those plans had tried to confront the issues of space travel for prolonged periods of time and adjusting to a low gravity state on the moon. But here, right in front of us, was the evidence of how an alien culture had adapted itself to long range space travel, different gravities, and the exposure to energy particles and waves crashing into a spacecraft by the billions. All we had to do was marshal the vast array of resources in the military and industry at R & D's disposal and harvest that technology. It was all laid out for us, if we knew how to use it. This was the beginning and I was right there on the cusp of it.

So in the first few minutes of glimmering light just on the edge of the horizon, a promise of the day to come, I took off for home, for a shower, a shave, a pot of coffee, and the crispest new uniform I could find. I was driving east into the dawn of a brand new age, my report right alongside me in my briefcase on the front seat. There would be other reports and the details of long term complicated projects to confront me in the future, I knew, but this was the first, the foundation, the beam of light into a hidden past and an uncertain future. But it was a light, and that's what was important.

No time for sleep now. There was too much to do.

2.2.8 The project after Roswell crash (2023-02-01 22:59)

“

THIS
IS A HELLUVA REPORT, PHIL,” GENERAL TRUDEAU SAID, looking up from the paper clipped sheaf of typewritten sheets I'd handed him first thing that morning. I'd been waiting at my desk since before six when I got back to the Pentagon, taking looks outside the building every once in a while as the bright orange reflection of the rising sun that exploded in a distant window and looked as if it had caught fire.

“

What’d
you do, stay up all night writing it?”

“

I
put in some work after hours,” I said. “I don’t want to spend
too much time in the nut file when people are supposed to be
working.”

The
general laughed as he fingered through the paperwork, but you could
see he was impressed. As much as I wanted to denigrate the Roswell
file in front of him as a bunch of drawers full of stuff that people
would put me away for, we both knew that it contained much of the
future of our R &D.

Military
research and development agencies were under growing pressure from
the Congress to put some success points on the scoreboard or get out
of the rocket launching business for good. Early failures to lift off
the navy’s WAC Corporal and the army Redstone had made laughing
stocks out of the American rocket program while the Soviets were
showing off their success like basketball players on fancy lay-ups
right across the court. The army’s

[1]

*Project
Horizon moon base project*

was sitting in its own file cabinet gathering dust. And there was also a growing concern among the military that we'd be pushed into taking over the failed French mission in Indochina to keep the Vietcong, Pathet Lao, and Khmer Rouge from making the whole area Communist. It was a war we could not win but that would drain our resources from the real battle front in Eastern Europe.

So,
even more than scoring some field goals,

**General
Trudeau**

needed projects going into development to keep the civilian agencies from cutting us back and diverting our resources. Now my boss held my first report in his hands and knew that our strategic plan had some rational grounding. He pushed for a tactical plan.

“

We
know what we want to do, “ he said. “Now, how do we do it?”

“I’ve been thinking about that, too, General, “ I said.
“And here’s how I’d like to start. “

I
explained that I wanted to compile a list of all our technical human resources, like the rocket scientists from Germany then still working at Alamogordo and White Sands. I’d met more than my share of our rocket fuel and guidance specialists in the guided missile program during my years at Red Canyon in command of the Nike battalion.

But

we were working with theoretical scientists as well, men with experience who could combine the cold precision of an engineer with the speculative vision of a free thinker. These were the people I wanted to assemble into a brain trust, people I could talk to about strange artifacts and devices that had no basis in earthly reality. They were the scientists who could tell me what the potential was in items like wafer shaped plywood thin pieces of silicon with mysterious silver etchings on them.

“

And

once you have this brain trust, “ General Trudeau asked, “then what?”

“Match them up with technologies, “ I said. I admitted that we were flying blind on much of the material that we had.

We

couldn't go out to the general scientific and academic communities to ask them what we had because we would very quickly lose control of our own secrets. Besides, a lot of it had to do with weaponry, and there were very strict rules on what we could and could not disclose without the appropriate clearances. But our brain trust would be invaluable. And, with the proper orientation and security checks, they would keep our secrets, too, just as they had since the end of World War II.

“

Which of the scientists do you have in mind?” Trudeau asked, taking out the little black leather covered notepad he kept in his inside pocket.

“I was thinking of Robert Sarbacher, “ I said.

“Wernher vonBraun, of course. Hans Kohler. Hermann Oberth. John von Neumann. “

“How much do they know about Roswell?”

Trudeau wanted to know. If they’d been consulted on the Roswell material back in1947, as I knew

**Wernher
von Braun**

had been by

**General
Twining**

, then we weren’t revealing any secrets. If they had never been informed about the crash, then we were going out on a limb by sharing information that was still classified above top secret. General Trudeau needed to know how dangerous it was to bring these scientists into the loop.

But I assured him that all of them knew something about Roswell because

of their connection with the Research and Development Board. During the Eisenhower administration information about the classified research and data collection projects into extraterrestrials was routinely filtered to the Office of Research and Development because the head of the Research and Development Board had been one of the original members of the group.

“

I was at the White House when Sarbacher was on the board, General, “ I told my boss. “So I can be pretty sure he was in the know. And Hermann Oberth, “ I admitted to Trudeau. “He already told me that he believed that the objects we saw popping up on our radar screens at Red Canyon and then disappearing as if they were never there were probably the same kinds of extraterrestrial aircraft that we picked up at Roswell. So he knew, but I don’t know how. “

“Well, that’s good news, at least, “ the general said. “I’d rather not be the one authorizing the release of classified information to anyone who didn’t know it before hand. And I don’t want to put you in the position, Phil, of having to explain to any higher ups why you decided to release top secret information to people without clearances, even in the interest of national security. “

I appreciated that, but for our plan to work, we needed the technical and scientific expertise people like

von Braun

,

Oberth

,

and

Sarbacher

could bring to any

*reverse
engineering*

and product development strategies.

"Will
you approach them?" Trudeau asked.

"We'll have to begin
by taking an inventory of all of the defense industry contracts we're
currently managing, General, " I said. "Lineup the contracts and
systems we're developing with the materials in the nut file to see
where they fit in. Then bring in the scientists to consult on making
sure we know what we think we have, that is, if they can figure out
what we have. "

"Let's go through a potential product
list first, " the general suggested. "Then see where our
contracts line up and where the scientists can help. And you know
what happens then, " Trudeau asked.

I wasn't sure where he
was going to take this.

"We're sticking you back in
civilian clothes and sending you on the road to visit our friends in
these defense contractors. "

"I don't even get to keep my
battle ribbons, " I joked.

"I don't want anyone to know,
" General Trudeau explained, "that some lieutenant colonel on the
CIA's Most Wanted list is traveling to our biggest defense
contractors with a mysterious briefcase full of nobody knows what.
You might as well wear a sign, " he laughed. "We have to get to
work on that list. "

That
same afternoon I went back to my report on the

EBE

and his craft and began to list the riddles it contained and the opportunities for the discovery of product it presented to us. The entire event was like an enigma to us because every conventional requirement one would expect to have found at the crash site, in the craft, or even in the EBEs themselves was missing.

Where

was the engine or the power supply for the craft? It had neither jet engines nor propellers. It had no rocket propulsion like the V2 missiles, nor did it carry any fuel. At Norton Air Force Base, where the craft eventually was hangared, engineers marveled at the thin amalgam of the most refined copper and purest silver they had ever seen that covered the ship's underside. The metal was remarkable for its conductivity, as if the entire craft was an electrical circuit offering no resistance to the flow of current.

Yet

it was something our military engineers could not replicate. By the 1950s at Norton Air Force Base, at least two prototypes of the alien craft had been fabricated, but neither had the power source of the craft that had crashed. In its stead were crude attempts at nuclear fission generators, but they were ineffective and dangerous. Even the portable nuclear generators that would power the primitive Soviet and American satellites in the 1960s were insufficient for the needs of the replicated spacecraft. So the question remained, what powered the Roswell spacecraft?

I
reviewed all of my discoveries in a checklist:

- The crescent shaped space vehicle also had no traditional navigational controls as we understood them.
- There were no control sticks, wheels, throttles, pedals, cables, flaps, or rudders.
- How did the creatures pilot this ship and how did they control the speed, accelerating from a near stationary hover above a given spot, like a helicopter, to speeds in excess of seven thousand miles per hour in a matter of seconds?
- What protected the creatures from the tremendous g-forces they would have had to have pulled in any conventional aircraft?

Our
own pilots in World War II had to wear special devices as they pulled
up out of dives that kept the oxygen from flowing out of their brains
and causing them to blackout. But we found nothing in the flight
suits of the creatures that indicated that they faced the same
problem. Yet their craft should have pulled ten times the g-forces
our own pilots did, so we couldn't figure out how they managed
this. No controls, no protection, no power supply, no fuel: these
were the riddles I listed.

Along
side them I listed that:

-

The
craft itself was an electrical circuit.

- That the flight
suits - “flight skins” is a better description - the creatures
wore were made of a substance whose atomic structure was elongated,
strengthened lengthwise, so as to provide a directional flow to any
current applied to it.

The
engineers who first discovered this were amazed at the pure
conductivity of these skins, functionally like the skin of the craft
itself, and their obvious ability to protect the wearer while at the
same time vectoring some kind of electronic field.

Where
was the physical junction of the circuit between the pilot and the
ship? Was it turned on and off somehow by the pilot himself through a
switch we didn’t know about?

Alongside
the riddle of the apparent absence of navigational controls I listed
the sensorized headband that so intrigued the officers at Roswell’s
Walker Field and fascinated me as well. If, as we all suspected, this
device picked up the electronic signatures from the creatures’
oversized brains, what did it do with them? I believed - and our
industrial product development from the 1960s through today as the

brain wave control helmets finally came into service ultimately confirmed - that these headbands translated the brain's electronic signals into system commands that controlled speed, direction, and elevation.

Maybe

the headbands had to be calibrated or tuned to each individual pilot, or maybe the pilots - since I believed they were genetically engineered beings biologically manufactured especially for flight or long term exploration had to be calibrated to the headband. Either way, the headbands were the interface between the pilot and the ship. But that still didn't resolve the question of the lack of cables, gears, or wires.

Maybe

the answer lay not in the lack of structural controls but in the way the suit, the headband, the creatures' brains, and the entire craft worked together. In other words, when I looked at the possible function of the entire system, the synchronicity between the brain interface in the headband, the pure conductivity of the spacecraft, and the elongated structure of the space skins, which also acted like a circuit, I could see how directional instructions could have been translated by the headbands into some form of current flowing through the skins and into the series of raised deck panels where there were indentations for the creatures' hands.

The indentations on these panels, as the Roswell field reports described them, looked like the handprints pressed into the concrete at the old Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood. Were the directional commands a series of electronic instructions transmitted directly from the creatures' brains along their bodies and through the panels into the ship itself as if the ship were only an extension of the creature's body? For that to have been the case, something was still missing. The engine.

Again, I settled on the idea of function over structure. The debris and the spacecraft indicated that an engine didn't somehow fall out of the craft when it crashed. A conventional engine was never there in the first place. What we found was that the craft seemed to have had the ability to store as well as conduct a vast amount of current. What if the craft itself were the engine, imparted with a steady current from another source that it stored as if it were a giant capacitor? This would be like charging the battery in an electric car and running it until the battery was drained. Sound far fetched?

It's not much different from filling up a car with gas at the pump and driving until the tank's dry, or fueling a plane and making sure you land before the fuel's gone. I suspected the Roswell craft was simply a capacitor that stored current that was controlled or vectored by the pilot and was able to be recharged in some way or could recharge itself with some form of built in generator.

That

would have explained the power supply, I noted along side the riddle of the missing engine, but what was the means of propulsion and direction? If there was a force that functioned the same way thrust does, it wasn't immediately obvious how it was created and vectored. As early as September 1947, scientists who had gone to the Air Materiel Command at Wright Field to see the debris were speculating that the electronic potential of the Roswell craft reminded them of the German and British antigravity experiments of the 1920s and 1930s.

General Twining

was reported to have said more than once that the name of the Serbian electrical engineer and inventor of alternating current,

[2]

Nikola Tesla

kept bubbling up in the conversation because the scientists examining the damaged craft described the way it must have converted an electromagnetic field into an antigravity field. And, of course, the craft itself reminded them of the German experimental fighter aircraft that made their appearance near the end of the war but that had been in development ever since the 1930s.

and a number of other European scientists had been pioneers in the conversion of circumscribed small area antigravity fields out of electromagnetic fields. However, the effort to develop true antigravity aircraft never came to fruition among conventional aircraft manufacturers because gasoline, jet, and rocket engines provided a perfectly good weapons technology. But the theory of electromagnetic antigravity propulsion was not unknown even if it was not well understood and, without a power source like a small portable nuclear fission generator, not at all feasible. But, what if the flying craft already carried enough electric potential and storage capacity to retain its power, just like a very advanced flying battery?

Then
it might have all the power it needed to propagate and vector a wave directionally by shifting its magnetic poles. If the magnetic field theory experiments carried out by engineers and electrical energy pioneers

**Paul
Biefeld**

and

**Townsend
Brown**

in the 1920s at the California Institute for Advanced Studies were accurately reported - and the U.S. military as well as scientific record keepers at the Bureau of Investigation kept very close tabs on what these engineers were doing - then the technological theory for antigravity flight existed before World War II.

In

fact, prototypes for vertical takeoff and landing disk shaped aircraft had been on the drawing boards at the California Institute since before the war. It was just that in the United States nobody paid them much attention. The Germans did develop and had flown flying disks, or so the intelligence reports read, even though they had no impact on the outcome of the war other than stimulating a race between the United States and the USSR to gather as much of the German technology as possible.

Thus, even though engineers had attempted to build vertical takeoff and flying wing aircraft before and had succeeded, the Roswell spacecraft, because it was so truly functional and outflowed anything we had - as well as traveled in space - represented a practical technological challenge to the scientists visiting the Air Materiel Command. We knew what

*the
EBEs*

did, we just couldn't duplicate how. My reports for Army R & D were analyses of the types of technology that we had to develop to either challenge this spacecraft militarily with a credible defense or build one ourselves.

In my notes to General Trudeau, I reviewed for him all the technological implications that I believed were relevant in any discussion about what could be harvested from the Roswell craft. I also wrote up what I understood about the magnetic field technology and how unconventional designers and engineers had drafted prototypes for these "antigravs" earlier in the century. All of this pointed in one direction, I suggested : that we now had a craft and could farm out to industry the components that comprised this electromagnetic

antigravity drive and brain wave directed navigational controls. We had to dole them out piece meal once we broke them down into developable units, each of which could have its own engineering track.

For that we'd need the advice of the scientists who would eventually comprise our brain trust, individuals we could rely on and whom we could talk to about the Roswell debris. These were scientists who routinely worked with our prime defense contractors and could tell us whom to approach in their R & D divisions for secure and private consultations.

I was hoping that the evaluation of the kinds of things we were able to learn from the

EBE

and his craft that I was preparing for

**General
Trudeau**

would lead me toward the solution of some of the physiological problems we knew our astronauts would encounter in space flight. In the early 1960s, astronauts from both the United States and the USSR had made their first orbital flights and had experienced more than a few negative physical symptoms from the weightless environment during the mission. Despite our official claims that humans could travel safely in space, our doctors knew that even short periods of weightlessness were extremely disorienting to some of our astronauts, and the longer the flight, the more uncomfortable the symptoms could become. We were worried about loss of physical strength, reduced

muscle capability in the heart and diaphragm, reduction of lung capacity, and loss of tensile strength in the bones.

Yet,
scattered across the desert floor outside of Roswell were creatures who seemed completely adapted to space flight. Just to be able to examine these entities was an enormous opportunity, but I knew we had the ability to harvest what we could observe about aliens. So, again, along side the speculations I had made about the EBEs and their craft I listed what I thought were the major possibilities of developing product to enable us to travel in space for extended periods of time.

Renewable
oxygen and food supplies were obvious directions to take, and by the 1960s,

*NASA
engineers*

were already designing ways to recharge the atmosphere inside a capsule and provide for food storage. We helped. It was Army R &D and our plan for developing an irradiation process for food that even today provides the basis for non-refrigerated food supplies on board spacecraft. But beyond that were real issues of health and survival. Merely getting human beings into earth orbit or even launching them into lunar orbit and bringing them back safely were straight forward engineering projects. But the readaptation of the human body to earth gravity after an extended period of weightlessness or reduced gravity was a far more intractable problem to solve. The physiology of the EBEs provided an important clue.

Besides
the development of

*super
tenacity fibers*

that would protect the astronauts and the

*skin
of the spacecraft*

and the development of a

*food
preservation process*

that would neutralize all the bacteria that cause spoilage, we needed to examine the ways we trained our astronauts physically so that they would be more adaptable to periods of weightlessness and spatial disorientation. At the same time we needed to develop nutritional packages that would not place undue stress on a digestive system that needed to compensate for deprivation of gravity.

Since

there were no food preparation facilities on board the spacecraft, we didn't know how they stored or processed food or even what they ate, if anything at all. However, my concern over a process to preserve food for space travel was prompted by the obvious challenge posed by the spacecraft itself. If we were going to travel in space, and it was clear from what the army found at Roswell that at least one culture had developed the technology to do so, then R &D had to find a way to feed our pilots in space. Therefore, we needed to develop a process to preserve food for space missions that didn't require refrigeration facilities and the consumption of excessive amounts of energy.

The problem of long term space travel

still hasn't been solved, in part because we continue to rely upon conventional means of propulsion that subject our astronauts to great periods of physical stress, especially during takeoff. We also have no magic way for astronauts to readjust to earth gravity after a long ride in an orbit in space station like the Russian Mir or our own planned station early in the next century. Manned trips to Mars, also on the drawing boards for early in the twenty-first century, will also be a problem because they will last for months and subject our astronauts to a great deal of stress.

I suggested to General Trudeau in my report that although this wasn't explicitly an Army R &D mission,

NASA

should begin the preparation of astronaut candidates from the time they're still in school.

“

If we train our astronauts from the time they're children the same way we do with potential athletes at sports camps and provide the most promising candidates with flight training and military or government scholarships to ROTC colleges, we will create a cadre of officers physically adaptable and scholastically trained to enter the next generation of space travel, “ I wrote.

I know that General Trudeau passed this recommendation along because NASA itself opened a space training camp for future astronauts within a few years after my retirement from the service.

Beyond

the issues concerning the training potential of astronauts for conventionally powered space flight, the examination of the EBE bodies and the ship's possible propulsion system raised other intriguing questions. What if, in addition to having been bioengineered for interstellar travel, the EBE's weren't subjected to the kinds of forces human pilots would routinely face? If the EBEs utilized a wave propagation technology as an antigravity drive and navigation system, then they traveled inside some form of adjustable electromagnetic wave. I suggested to General Trudeau that we should study the potential physiological effects on humans of long term exposure to the kinds of energy spillage generated by the propagation of an electromagnetic field.

Biologists

needed to determine how feasible such a form of space travel would be based upon whether energy radiation would disrupt the cellular activity of the human body. Perhaps the external one piece skins worn by the EBEs afforded them protection against the effects of being enclosed in a portable electromagnetic field.

Although

Army R & D never conducted these studies because the medical issues surrounding space travel were subsumed by NASA under contracts with the military, indirect medical research was conducted years later. Studies surrounding the physiological effects on persons living near high voltage power transmission lines and persons using extendable antenna hand held cellular telephones both proved inconclusive. While some people argued that there were higher incidences of cancer among both groups, other studies argued just the opposite or found other reasons for any incidences of cancer.

I believe that a definitive piece of research on the effects of low energy or

[3]

*ELM
wave exposure*

still needs to be done because, ultimately, even more than atomic energy or ion drives, magnetic field generation will be the system that will propel our near planetary voyages from 2050 through the early twenty second century. Beyond that, for humans to reach destinations beyond the solar system technology will require a radically different form of propulsion that will enable them to reach velocities at or beyond the speed of light.

Thus did my second report cover the opportunities for research presented to us by the autopsies of the EBEs and from the crash of their vehicle. To my mind, it was nothing less than a confirmation that the research into

electromagnetics

in the 1920s and the highly experimental saucer and crescent shaped development of aircraft by the Allies and Axis powers would have led to an entirely new generation of airships. I know that my reports were read by the higher ups in the military because top secret research has continued right through to the present on a whole range of designs and propulsion systems from the Stealth fighter and bomber to prototypes for a very high altitude suborbital interceptor aircraft, developed at Nellis and Edwards, now on the drawing board,

which can hover in place and fly at speeds over seven thousand miles per hour.

Once

I finished my report on the opportunities we could possibly derive from the EBEs and the craft, I turned my attention to compiling a short list of immediate opportunities I believed achievable by the Army R &D's Foreign Technology Division from a reverse engineering of items retrieved from the crash. These were specific things, not as theoretical as questions about the physiology of the EBE or the description of its craft. But, while some might call them purely mundane, each of these artifacts, as a direct result of Army R &D's intervention, helped spawn an entire technological industry from which came new products and military weapons.

Among

the Roswell artifacts and the questions and issues that arose from the Roswell crash, on my preliminary list that needed resolution for development scheduling or simple inquiries to our military scientific community were:

-

Image

intensifiers, which ultimately became "night vision"

-

Fiber optics

- Super-tenacity fibers

- Lasers

-

Molecular alignment metallic alloys

- Integrated circuits

-

Microminiaturization of logic boards

- HARP (High Altitude Research Project)

-

[4]

*Project
Horizon*

(moon base)

- Portable atomic generators (ion propulsion drive)
- Irradiated food
- Third brain guidance systems (EBE headbands)
- Particle beams ("Star Wars" antimissile energy weapons)
- Electromagnetic propulsion systems
- Depleted uranium projectiles

For
each of the items on my list,

**General
Trudeau**

went into his human resources file and found the names of scientists working on government defense projects or in allied research projects at universities where I could turn for advice and some consultation. I wasn't surprised to see

**Wernher
von Braun**

turn up under every rocket propulsion issue. von Braun had gone on record in 1959 by announcing that the U.S. military had acquired a new technology as a result of top secret research in unidentified flying objects. Nor was I surprised to see

**John
von Neumann**

's
name next to the mention of the strange looking silver imprinted silicon wafers that I thought looked like elliptical shaped crackers.

“

If
these are what I think they might be, “ General Trudeau said,
“printed circuitry, there’s only one person we can talk to. “

**Dr.
Robert Sarbacher**

was an especially important contact person on our list of scientists because he had worked on the Research and Development Board during the Eisenhower administration. Not only had Sarbacher been consulted by members of Admiral Hillenkoetter’s and General Vandenberg’s working group on UFOs during the 1950s, he was part of the original decision General Twining made to bring all of the Roswell debris back to Wright Field for preliminary examination before farming it out to the military research community.

As

early as 1950, Sarbacher, commenting on the nature of the debris, said that he was sure the light and tough materials were being analyzed very carefully by government laboratories that had taken possession of the debris after the crash. Because he was already knowledgeable about the Roswell debris, Dr. Sarbacher was another obvious candidate for an Army R &D brain trust.

We

also listed

Dr.

Wilbert Smith

, who, in a memo to the controller of telecommunications in November 1950, had urged the government of Canada to investigate the nature of alien technology the United States had retrieved from

crashed

extraterrestrial vehicles

and that was at that time being studied by

Vannevar

Bush.

Dr. Smith, who had learned of the U.S. investigation from Sarbacher, said that regardless whether UFOs fit into our belief system or not, the fact was we had acquired them and it was important for us to harvest the technology they contained. He implored the government to make a substantial effort to utilize alien technology. General Trudeau joked that although Dr. Smith knew that we had acquired technology at Roswell, he didn't really know what it was. "I can't wait to see his face when you open your briefcase in front of him, Phil," the general said, thinking about how his old friend had always wanted to know the specifics of what he had secreted away in 1947.

Each of these scientists had maintained existing relationships with any number of defense contractors during the 1950s. General Trudeau also had relationships with the army contractors who were developing new weapons systems for the military within one part of the company while another part was harvesting some of the same technology for consumer products development. These were companies—

*Bell
Labs*

,

IBM

,

Monsanto

,

Dow

,

*General
Electric*

,

and

Hughes

- that General Trudeau wanted to talk to about the list of technological products that we'd compiled from our R & D Roswell nut file.

"

You begin calling our scientist friends, " General Trudeau announced. "And make whatever appointments you want. "

"Where are you going to be, General?" I asked.

"I'm going to be taking some trips, too, " he said. "First to the chief of staff

to make sure we have the discretionary budget we're going to need. Then to some of the people I want you to talk to once you have the backing from the scientific community for the projects on your list.

"

"Where to first?" I asked.

"What do you like?"
the general shot right back to me.

"We've been working with image intensifiers for some time," I said. "We even got our hands on devices the Germans were working on at the end of the war."

"Well then, why don't you make a very preliminary trip over to Fort Belvoir," General Trudeau said.

"

They've had a night vision project in the works for the past ten years, but it's got nothing over what you have in your file."

"I'll get over there first thing," I said.

"Yes, Phil, but you get out of that uniform and into a real lawyer suit," the general ordered. "And don't take your staff car." He saw me raise my eyebrows. "All you're going to do is feed a project," Trudeau continued, "that's been under way since right after the war. They've got stuff, but you're going to give them a giant leap. Once you've fed them, you'll disappear and I'll assign a night vision project manager here to see the development through." I prepared to leave his office.

"

No one will know, Phil," he said. "Just like you thought, the Roswell night viewer will put a seed of an idea in someone's mind over at Fort Belvoir and it will become part of a long project

history. It will disappear just like you into the history of the product development. “

“Yes, sir, “ I said. I was beginning to realize just how lonely this job could be.

“You still have a suit that fits?” the general asked.

“I think so,” I answered. “Maybe what I wore over at the White House is a little out of style, but it’ll pass.”

“Good luck, Phil, “ General Trudeau said. “Make sure no one knows where you’re going and I’ll make sure you have all the budget you need. “

This was the beginning. I saluted, but the general just stuck out his hand and I shook it. We both realized in that moment, as we were striking out on our own, just how momentous this was about to become. A lieutenant general allocating money for his development budget and a lieutenant colonel looking for someone to develop an innocuous-looking eye shield an unknown GI had picked up out of the sand near a UFO crashed into a rock in the lonely desert outside of Roswell in a lightning storm fourteen years ago.

What a pair we must have made.

1. http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/luna/luna_projecthorizon01.htm
 2. http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/esp_tesla.htm
 3. http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/esp_scalartech.htm
 4. http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/luna/luna_projecthorizon01.htm
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2.2.9 More projects after Roswell crash (2023-02-01 23:02)

General Trudeau marched down the hall to his boss at the Pentagon to begin the process of funding the new items we'd identified in our Foreign Technology budget, and I went home that evening and tried on my official White House three piece suit. President Eisenhower once told me that he always trusted a man who wore a vest, and I never forgot it. Although there were times when the President asked me to wear my uniform for special meetings when I had to look military, I usually wore suits every day to work.

But after my years at the Red Canyon missile base and in combat uniform in Germany, I lost the knack of wearing civilian clothes. Nevertheless, here I was again, after all those years, wearing a suit just like any other nine-to-five commuting Joe as I headed toward Fort Belvoir, perhaps the army's most important base in the entire Washington Military District.

Fort Belvoir was one of those military posts where the mundane activity of training and weapons testing was an effective cover for what came to be known as the secret life of Fort Belvoir. It sat comfortably within thirty minutes of the Pentagon, and it was where some of the army's most top secret research into UFO technology was also taking place. Belvoir housed the Army Engineering School and, for former artillery and missile officers like myself, maintained a vital information database about ballistics testing and the development of new weapons. But on the secret side of the ledger, Fort Belvoir was home to the Signal School where officers for the National Security Council who had top secret crypto clearance were trained.

Even years after I retired from active duty, stories lingered about the records of UFOs that were stored at Fort Belvoir, including photos and even motion pictures of military retrievals of downed extraterrestrial craft. What very few people knew was that an elite secret air force unit operated out of Fort Belvoir - ostensibly an army base - that was responsible for retrievals of downed UFOs. That was how Fort Belvoir became a repository of classified UFO footage. Those secrets remained at Fort Belvoir over the years and were closely guarded while the installation remained shrouded in mystery. For those who suspect what information was kept at the base, Fort Belvoir remains a central part of the legends surrounding the official military cover up of UFOs.

Me, I was on my way there to talk about the night vision project to see what German World War II files they were keeping on the infrared viewfinders the Nazis were trying to deploy for their night fighting troops. These were cumbersome, unwieldy devices that left infantry hampered and weighed down. They were never effective in the war but held out the enormous promise of opening up the night as a battlefield where an army could maneuver

around its blind and helpless enemy. That was the promise that tantalized both the Soviets and American forces as we closed in on Germany's most secret weapons facilities during the final months of the war.

Our forces secured all of the German records on mountable weapons night viewers and headpieces, but it wasn't until we looked inside the crashed Roswell vehicle and saw a hazy daylight through the view ports that we realized just what the potential of night viewing could be. We understood in those few moments after the vehicle was brought back to Wright Field and General Twining made his initial report that we were the blind and helpless enemy through the eyes of the EBEs. These creatures controlled our night skies, observing us with an ease that we didn't enjoy until we had deployed our own night-viewing goggles years later and leveled the playing field against them and the Soviet client forces arrayed against us.

My very proper looking deep blue Oldsmobile might not have been a secret weapon in America's arsenal, but it was carrying a description of one of the tiny components of what would be one of our most effective Cold War weapons. Guerrilla armies used the night itself on their familiar home territory as a tactical weapon that allowed them to move right past enemy positions without being spotted. They could secure a battlefield advantage as if they were invisible. But equip a patrol with night viewers, mount night viewers on tanks and observation vehicles, hover over a battlefield at night in helicopter gunships equipped for night vision, and suddenly the night becomes day and the invisible enemy appears in your gunsights like prey for the hunter.

To the EBEs, we were that prey, and we knew they were monitoring our defenses, surveilling the aircraft we scrambled to chase them, and hovering above the experimental satellites we launched. We could see them with our radar, I had seen them on our scopes with my own eyes, and we knew their presence wasn't benign. But they had an advantage over us that we couldn't overcome unless we acquired the technological ability to put up enough of a defense to make their cost too high to engage in any large scale warfare.

Not only was it an advantage that forced us to scrape whatever technology we could off the edge of our encounters with them; it was one of the many factors that forced us into a silence about the alien presence. If there was no public enemy, there would be no pressure from the public to do anything about it. So we simply denied all extraterrestrial activity because no aliens meant no military responsibility to counter their threat. But all the while we were still planning, measuring their hostile intentions, and pushing through weapons development that might reduce their advantage.

It would have been next to impossible to stage a military build up that would help us fight extraterrestrial enemies had we not had a lot of help from our old adversaries, the Soviets and the Chinese. The Soviets made no bones about their intentions to dominate the world through Communist revolutionary coups and set about immediately to challenge us even before World War II ended. By 1948, the Iron Curtain had dropped over Eastern Europe and the Soviets were trying to back us into a position of appeasement. In 1949, Mao Tse-tung drove Chiang Kai-shek out of mainland China to the island of Taiwan, and the United States had another major Communist adversary trying to impose its will upon its Asian neighbors. We first tasted their blood in Korea and would soon almost choke on it in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia.

Those were hard times, made even harder because the U.S. military also knew that not

just the free world but the whole world was under a military threat from a power far greater than the combined forces of the Soviet Union and the Republic of China. We didn't know what the EBEs wanted at first, but we knew that between the cattle mutilations, surveillance of our secret weapons installations, reports of strange abductions of human beings, and their consistent buzzing of our unmanned and manned space launches, the EBEs weren't just friendly visitors looking for a polite way to say "Hello, we mean you no harm. " They meant us harm, and we knew it. The problem was we couldn't do anything about it at first, and anything we did try to do had to be done in complete secrecy or it would set off a worldwide panic, we believed.

This was where the Cold War turned out to be a tremendous opportunity for us, because it allowed us to upgrade our military, preparedness in public to fight the Communists while secretly creating an arsenal and strategy to defend ourselves against the extraterrestrials. In short, the Cold War, while real enough and dangerous enough, was also a cover for us to develop a planetary tracking and defense system that looked into space as well as into the Soviets' backyard. And the Soviets were doing the exact same thing we were, looking up at the same time they were looking down.

In an only tacitly acknowledged cooperative endeavor, the Soviets and the Americans, while each one was explicitly using the Cold War to gain an advantage over the other, both sought to develop a military capability to defend ourselves against extraterrestrials. There were very subtle indications of this policy in the types of weapons both countries developed as well as in our behavior toward one another every time one side came close to pushing the button. I can tell you definitively because I was there when we avoided nuclear war because both military commands were able to pull back when they stared over the cliff into the flaming volcano of war that threatened to engulf all of us at least four times between 1945 and 1975 - the Berlin airlift, the Chinese invasion of Korea, the Cuban missile crisis, and the Yom Kippur War - and probably many more.

By the time President Nixon returned from China, having agreed to turn over Vietnam to the Communists, he had effectively turned the Soviets' flank in the Cold War. For the next decade, the Soviets felt caught between the Chinese, with whom they'd fought border wars in the past, and the United States. When President Ronald Reagan demonstrated to Mikhail Gorbachev that the United States was capable of deploying an effective antimissile missile defense and sought Soviet cooperation in turning it against the extraterrestrials, all pretext of the Cold War ended and the great Soviet monolith in Eastern Europe began to crumble.

But the Cold War worked its magic for both superpowers by allowing them to prepare defenses against the extraterrestrials without ever having to disclose to the public what they were really doing. When you examine it, the record itself should have showed that another agenda was present throughout the Cold War. After all, why did each side really have ten or more times the number of warheads needed to completely destroy the other side's nuclear missile arsenal as well as their major population centers?

The real story behind the vast missile arsenals, the huge fleets of bombers, and the ICBM submarine platforms that both sides deployed was the threat to the aliens that if they occupied a portion of our planet, we had the fire power to obliterate them. If they attacked either the United States or the Soviet Union so as to render one of the arsenals inoperable, we had enough missiles to spare to make them pay so heavy a price for starting a war, it wasn't even worth trying. That was part of our secret agenda behind the huge military buildups of the 1950s and 1960s: sacrifice a portion of the planet so that the rest of us could live.

It enabled the United States and USSR to intimidate one another, but it also worked for the heads of the military intelligence agencies as a way to intimidate any extraterrestrial cultures. Nobody wrote any memos about this because weapons deployment during the Cold War was the cover for the secret agenda against the extraterrestrials.

Sure, there was a gamesmanship going on during those forty years from 1948 through 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down. Each side tried to get the other to spend more money than they really had to so as to weaken the economy. Our CIA consistently gave us false estimates because they were feeding us KGB information while, I know, we tried to do the same thing to the Soviets. And if the Soviets could have won the Cold War as bloodlessly as possible, they would have done so. But in the end, as the futility of mutual destruction made World War III unfightable, our real attention became more focused on the common enemy: the extraterrestrials who refused to go away.

There were subtle and not so subtle hints during the entire Cold War that a hidden agenda was in play. Most people just didn't know where to look. For those who did, and there were and are plenty of them, the answers were in plain view.

Although there was heavy censorship and the threat of ruined careers, plenty of military and civilian sources reported flying saucer sightings. Stories of abductions - while most were either fantasies, nightmares, or memory screens for other events in the so called abductee's childhood - continued to abound. Some were true, and this caused great consternation among members of the UFO working group. If the government couldn't protect private citizens from abductions by extraterrestrials, then would that not signify a breakdown in governmental authority? That was a worry, but it didn't come to pass.

Similarly, if too many flying saucers were seen by too many people at the same time, wouldn't it become obvious that the military forces of the superpowers couldn't protect their populations? For a time it was true, but the public never realized it. Soon we were able to upgrade our ability to defend our airspace so that we could amass large numbers of interceptors against the EBEs' limited resources and pose a real threat to them.

They backed off and probed our defenses only when it seemed safe. Thus, the race among the superpowers to spend billions of dollars to build the fastest and best interceptors had a true double purpose. We needed all these planes because they gave the super powers a flexible response alternative to simply obliterating themselves with guided missiles, but at the same time both superpowers were developing the air defense technology to defend the planet against the extraterrestrials.

Everybody wants the best and fastest plane, of course, so that we can out fly and out shoot the enemy we know about. But we were also defending our skies against an enemy we didn't admit to having. The second agenda was always there and the Cold War provided the budgetary impetus the military needed : We were building aircraft to protect against flying saucers. And in a very real measure, we succeeded.

Both the United States and USSR were sensitive to another area where the extraterrestrials were aggressing upon our military personnel : our respective space exploration programs. From the very beginning of our endeavors to put satellites in orbit, the extraterrestrials have been surveilling and then actively interfering with our launch vehicles and in some cases the

manned and unmanned payloads themselves by buzzing them, jamming radio transmissions, causing electrical problems with the spacecrafts' systems, or causing mechanical malfunctions.

American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts have separately reported sightings of UFOs so routinely that it's become commonplace. The audio/video transmission downlink between space capsules and NASA, however, is a secure scrambled signal so that commentary about UFOs shadowing the spacecraft can't be picked up by private listeners. Even then, the astronauts are specifically instructed not to report UFO sightings until they are debriefed once they've landed.

Astronaut Gordon Cooper, for example, reported that when he was a fighter pilot over Germany in the 1950s, he scrambled with other Sabre Jet fighter pilots to intercept a formation of UFOs flying over his base, but when his fighter group got too close, the formation of UFOs flew away. Cooper also described film that he saw at Edwards Air Force base in California in 1957 of a UFO landing. He said that he sent the film to Washington and followed up on it with the officers at Project Blue Book, but they never responded to his queries.

Similarly, X-15 pilot Joe Walker revealed that his 1961 mission in setting a new world air speed record was also to hunt for UFOs during his high altitude flights. He also said that he filmed UFOs during an X-15 flight a year later in 1962. Other reports persisted about Mercury 7 astronauts being shadowed by UFOs and about Neil Armstrong's having seen an alien base on the moon during the Apollo 11 flyover and landing. NASA has, of course, not admitted to any of this, and, very correctly, it's been treated as a matter of high national security.

An extraterrestrial presence on the moon, whether it was true or not in the 1950s, was an issue of such military importance that it was about to become a subject for National Security Council debate before Admiral Hillenkoetter and Generals Twining and Vandenberg pulled it back under their working group's security classification. The issue never formally reached the National Security Council, although Army R & D under the new command of General Trudeau in 1958 quickly developed preliminary plans for Horizon, a moon base construction project designed to provide the United States with a military observation presence on the lunar surface.

Started in the late 1950s and set for completion between 1965 and 1967, Horizon was supposed to establish defensive fortifications on the moon against a Soviet attempt to use it as a military base, an early warning surveillance system against a Soviet missile attack, and, most importantly, a surveillance and defense against UFOs. It was, to be blunt, a plan to establish a skirmish line in space to protect the earth against a surprise attack. But Horizon was side tracked when the National Space and Aeronautics Act gave control over space exploration to the civilian NASA, effectively eliminating the military branches from pursuing their own projects until much later in the 1970s.

Fears of an attack to probe our planet's ability to defend itself were running rampant at National Security and through the military chiefs of staff during the middle 1950s. After he retired from the army, even Gen. Douglas MacArthur got into the fray, urging the military to prepare itself for what he felt would be the next major war. He told the New York Times in 1955 that,

"The nations of the world will have to unite for the next war will be an interplanetary war. The nations of the Earth must someday make a common front against attack by people from other

planets. “

The public took little notice of that comment, but it was, in fact, a disclosure of the strategic thinking of the military back in the 1950s and explains part of the paranoia the government was displaying about all information relating to the flying saucers and unidentified aircraft. Part of the military response to what they perceived as threats from extraterrestrials was, first, to analyze the specific ways that alien spacecraft “passively” disrupt our defenses and world wide communications through electrical and magnetic field interference and develop circuitry hardened against it. Second, General Trudeau and his counterparts in the other branches of the military at the Pentagon charged with strategic planning looked at the aggressive behaviors of the EBEs.

They didn’t just shadow or surveil our spacecraft in orbit; they buzzed us and tried to create such havoc with our communications systems that NASA more than once had to rethink astronaut safety in the Mercury and Gemini programs. Years later, there was even some speculation among Army Intelligence analysts who had been out of the NASA strategy loop that the Apollo moon landing program was ultimately abandoned because there was no way to protect the astronauts from possible alien threats.

The alien spacecraft were also aggressively buzzing our frontline defenses in Eastern Europe, either looking for blind spots or weaknesses, or - which is what I believed because I was there and saw it with my own eyes - probing our radar to see how quickly we responded. We’d see blips shoot across our screens that we couldn’t identify and suddenly they’d disappear. Then they’d reappear, only this time even closer to our airfields or missile launchers. Once we determined that we weren’t being probed by Soviet or East German aircraft, we sometimes decided not to respond to the threats. Many times they’d just go away.

But other times they would play cat and mouse, edging ever closer until we had to respond. That’s what they were looking for, how quickly we could respond and pick them upon our targeting radars or catch up to them with our interceptors. Whenever we’d get just about there for an aerial sighting, they’d take off out of the atmosphere at speeds over 7,500 miles an hour. If we tried to follow, they’d play us along until our fliers had to return.

Our only successes in defending against them, back in the late 1950s and early 1960s, occurred when we were able to get a firm tracking radar lock. Then when we locked our targeting radars on, the signals that missiles were supposed to follow to the target, it somehow interfered with their navigational ability and the vehicle’s flight became erratic. If we were especially fortunate and able to boost the signal before they broke away, we could actually bring them down.

Sometimes we actually got lucky enough to score a hit with a missile before the UFO could take any evasive action, which an army air defense battalion did with an anti-aircraft missile near Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany in May 1974. The spacecraft managed to crash land in a valley. The craft was retrieved and flown back to Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. The Roswell crash was different. There was much speculation that it was a combination of the desert lightning storm and our persistent tracking radars at Alamogordo and the 509th that helped bring down the alien vehicle over the New Mexico desert in 1947.

Then there were the suspected cattle mutilations and reported abductions, perhaps the most direct form of intervention in our culture short of a direct attack upon our installations. While debates broke out among the debunkers - who said these were a combination of hoaxes,

attacks by every day predators on cattle, psychological flashback memories of episodes of childhood abuse in the cases of reported abductees, and out and out fabrications of the media - field investigators found they could not explain away some of the cattle mutilations, especially where laser surgery seemed to be used, and psychologists found alarming similarities in the descriptions of abductees who had no knowledge of one another's stories.

The military intelligence community regarded these stories of mutilations and abductions very seriously. They worked up descriptions of at least three separate scenarios in which,

- (1) the EBEs were simply conducting scientific experiments on earthly life forms and collecting whatever specimens they could without causing too much disruption and alerting us
- (2) the EBEs were actively collecting specimens and conducting experiments so as to determine whether this was a hospitable environment for them to inhabit, and any disruption they caused was of no concern to them
- (3) all of the experimentation and specimen collection were the prelude to some kind of infiltration or invasion of our planet. We did not know their motives, but could only assume the worst and, therefore, needed to defend ourselves however we could

While never disclosing it publicly, military intelligence analysts supported the view that Earth was already under some form of probing attack by one or more alien cultures who were testing both our ability and resolve to defend ourselves. Without ever directly addressing whether contacts between the aliens and Earth governments had already taken place - because the notes and minutes of the Hillenkoetter working group were never released to the Chiefs of Staff or to their intelligence officers - the heads of the armed services decided collectively that it was better to plan for war rather than be surprised.

At the same time, the civilian leaders of the nation's space program at NASA decided that military intelligence was overreacting to the shadowing and buzzing of our spacecraft. NASA, which had been holding as highly confidential any reports of extraterrestrial activity surrounding our space vehicles, nevertheless decided to adopt an internal official "wait and watch" attitude because they believed that it would have been impossible to launch an explicitly military defensive space program and still achieve the civilian scientific aims at the same time.

So NASA agreed to go covert. As a cover, NASA, in 1961, agreed to cooperate with military planners to work a "second tier" space program within and covered up by the civilian scientific missions. They agreed to open up a confidential "back channel" communications link to military intelligence regarding any hostile activities conducted by the EBEs against our spacecraft even if these included only shadowing or surveillance. I was aware of this through my contacts in the military intelligence community.

What NASA didn't tell military intelligence, of course, was that they already had an even more classified back channel to the Hillenkoetter working group and were keeping them updated on every single alien spacecraft appearance the astronauts reported, especially during the early series of Apollo flights when the EBE craft began buzzing the lunar modules on successive missions after they thrust out of earth orbit.

Even though military intelligence was kept out of the operational loop between NASA and the working group, I and a few others still had contacts in the civilian intelligence community that kept us informed. And the army and air force managed to find at least 122 photos taken by astronauts on the moon that showed some evidence of an alien presence. It was a startling find and was one of many reasons that the Reagan administration pushed so hard for the Space Defense Initiative in 1981.

In 1960, upon the confidential approval of the working group and at the request of the National Security Agency, which was concerned about the vulnerability of its U2 flights, NASA agreed to allow some of its missions to become covers for military surveillance satellites. These satellites, although approved for surveillance of Soviet ICBM activity, were also supposed to spot alien activity in remote portions of the earth. Maybe, in the 1960s, we didn't have the technology we have now to intercept their ships, but by using new satellite surveillance techniques we believed we'd be able to pick up the signatures of an alien presence on the face of our planet. If we made it too difficult for them to set up shop with bases on Earth, military intelligence planners speculated, maybe they would simply go away. This was another example of how Cold War strategy was utilized for the dual purpose of trying to surveil extraterrestrial activity under the cover of surveilling Soviet activity.

However, throughout the 1960s, critical projects were started at the Foreign Technology desk to protect vital command and control systems, including the hardening of communications and defense computer circuitry by burying components sensitive to electromagnetic pulses, the same kind of energy generated after a nuclear explosion as well as by the EBE spacecraft. In fact, so important was our research into the effects of the electromagnetic pulse, or EMP, that ever since the late 1950s the Department of Defense has been simulating EMP to determine how to protect the circuitry in its planes, tanks, missiles, and ships from being disabled by it.

EMP generators were established at a number of facilities around the country, including the Harry Diamond Laboratories in Philadelphia, Maryland, for the army and the EMP Empress I and II simulators for the navy in the middle of Chesapeake Bay and another one at China lake in California. The air force set up EMP simulators at Kirkland Air Force Base in New Mexico and the army additional facilities at White Sands, New Mexico, and at the Redstone arsenal in Alabama. We also initiated the crash development of night vision equipment to enable our troops to see at night the same way the EBEs did, finally enabling us to get a footing, if not an equal footing, with the aliens so that we could force them to some kind of stale mate. It was only then that we began to realize what their intentions were and the startling secrets about their existence on this planet.

It was night vision that was on my mind today as I was zipped through the sentry post at the main gate and very quickly buzzed into the development laboratories wing at Fort Belvoir by an army specialist 4 who seemed surprised that I wasn't in uniform.

"Colonel Corso, Dr. Paul Fredericks, technology development consultant to the night vision section at Fort Belvoir, said as he extended his hand and walked me over to what must have been his prized tobacco colored leather chair. It was way oversized for his small office and was obviously his favorite seat. I was duly appreciative of the honor and courtesy he was according me. "General Trudeau told me you were bringing us some remarkable information about one of the projects we have in development here. "

"I hope it's helpful to you, Dr. Fredericks, " I began. "I'm not a physicist, but I think we have something that might speed up the research time line and show some new possibilities. "

"Anything that could help, Colonel, " he said as I opened up my briefcase and began to spread out what I had. "Anything at all. "

2.2.10 Roswell leading to the circuit board technology (2023-02-01 23:03)

WITH
THE NIGHT-VISION IMAGE INTENSIFIER PROJECT UNDER way at Fort Belvoir
and the Project Horizon team

trying to swim upstream against
the tide of civilian management of the U.S. space program, I turned
my attention to the next of the Roswell crash fragments that looked
especially intriguing: the charred semiconductor wafers that had
broken off some larger device. I hadn't made these my priorities at
first, not knowing what they really were, until General Trudeau asked
me to take a closer look.

“

Talk
to some of the rocket scientists down at Alamogordo about these
things, Phil, “ he said. “I think they'll know what we should
do with them. “

I

knew that in the days immediately following the crash, General
Twining had met with the Alamogordo group of the Air Materiel Command
and had described some of the debris to them. But I didn't know how
detailed his descriptions were or whether they even knew about the
wafers we had in our file.

“

I

want to talk to some of the scientists up here, too, “ I said.
“Especially, I want to see some of the engineers from the defense contractors. Maybe they can figure out what the engineering process is for these things. “

“Go over to Bell Labs, Phil, “

General Trudeau also suggested. “The transistor came out of their shop and these things look a lot like transistorized circuits.”

I’d
heard that

General Twining

had worked very closely with both Bell Labs and Motorola on communications research during the war, afterwards at the Alamogordo test site for V2 missile launches, and after the Roswell crash. Whether he had brought them any material from the crash or showed them the tiny silicon chips was a matter of pure speculation. I only know that the entire field of circuit miniaturization took a giant leap in 1947 with the invention of the transistor and the first solid state components.

By
the late 1950s, transistors had replaced the vacuum tube in radios and had turned the wall-sized wooden box of the 1940s into the portable plastic radio you could hear blaring away at the shore on a hot July Sunday. The electronics industry had taken a major technological jump in less than ten years, and I had to wonder privately whether any Roswell material had gotten out that I didn’t know about prior to

my taking over Foreign Technology in 1961.

I didn't realize it at first when I showed those silicon wafers to General Trudeau, but I was to become very quickly and intimately involved with the burgeoning computer industry and a very small, completely invisible, cog in an assembly line process that fifteen years later would result in the first microcomputer systems and the personal computer revolution.

Over the course of the years since I joined the army in 1942, my career took me through the stages of vacuum tube based devices, like our radios and radars in World War II, to component chassis.

These were large circuitry units that, if they went down, could be changed in sections, smaller sections, and finally to tiny transistors and transistorized electronic components. The first army computers I saw were room sized, clanking vacuum tube monsters that were always breaking down and, by today's standards, took an eternity to calculate even the simplest of answers. They were simply oil filled data pots. But they amazed those of us who had never seen computers work before.

At Red Canyon and in Germany, the tracking and targeting radars we used were controlled by new transistorized chassis computers that were compact enough to fit onto a truck and travel with the battalion. So when I opened up my nut file and saw the charred matte gray quarter sized, cracker shaped silicon wafers with the gridlines etched onto them like tiny printed lines on the cover of a match book, I could

make an educated guess about their function even though I'd never seen anything of the like before. I knew, however, that our rocket scientists and the university researchers who worked with the development laboratories at Bell, Motorola, and IBM would more than understand the primary function of these chips and figure out what we needed to do to make some of our own.

But
first I called

**Professor
Hermann Oberth**

for basic background on what, if any, development might have taken place after the Roswell crash. Dr. Oberth knew the Alamogordo scientists and probably received second hand the substance of the conversations General Twining had with his Alamogordo group in the hours after the retrieval of the vehicle. And if General Twining described some of the debris, did he describe these little silicon chips? And if he did, in those months when the

ENIAC

- the first working computer - was just cranking up at the Aberdeen Ordnance Testing Grounds in Maryland, what did the scientists make of those chips?

“

They
saw these at the Walker Field hangar, “ Dr. Oberth told me. “All of them at Alamogordo flew over to Roswell with General Twining to oversee the shipment to Wright Field. “

Oberth
described what happened that day after the crash when a team of AMC

rocket scientists pored over the bits and pieces of debris from the site. Some of the debris was packed for flight on B29s. Other material, especially the crates that wound up at Fort Riley, were loaded onto deuce and a halves for the drive. Dr. Oberth said that years later, von Braun had told him how those scientists who literally had to stand in line to have their equations processed by the experimental computer in Aberdeen Maryland were in awe of the microscopic circuitry etched into the charred wafer chips that had spilled out of the craft.

Von

Braun had asked General Twining whether anyone at Bell Labs was going to be contacted about this find. Twining seemed surprised at first, but when von Braun told him about the experiments on solid state components - material whose electrons don't need to be excited by heat in order to conduct current - Twining became intrigued. What if these chips were components of a very advanced solid state circuitry? von Braun asked him. What if one of the reasons the army could find no electronic wiring on the craft were the layers of these wafers that ran throughout the ship? These circuit chips could be the nervous system of the craft, carrying signals and transmitting commands just like the nervous system in a human body.

General

Twining's only experience had been with the heavily insulated vacuum tube devices from World War II, where the multistrand wires were covered with cloth. He'd never seen metallic printed chips like these before. How did they work? he'd asked von Braun.

The

German scientist wasn't sure, although he guessed they worked on the same principle as the transistors that laboratories were trying to develop to the point where they could be manufactured commercially. It would completely transform the electronics industry, von Braun explained to General Twining, nothing short of a revolution. The Germans had been desperately trying to develop circuitry of this sort during the war, but

Hitler

, convinced the war would be over by 1941, told the German computer researchers that the Wehrmacht had no need for computers that had a development timetable greater than one year. They'd all be celebrating victory in Berlin before the end of the year.

But the research into solid state components that the Germans had been doing and the early work at Bell Labs was nothing compared to the marvel that Twining had shown von Braun and the other rocket scientists in New Mexico. Under the magnifying glass, the group thought they saw not just a single solid state switch but a whole system of switches integrated into each other and comprising what looked like an entire circuit or system of circuits. They couldn't be sure because no one had ever seen anything even remotely like this before.

But it showed them an image of what the future of electronics could be if a way could be found to manufacture this kind of circuit on Earth. Suddenly, the huge guidance control systems necessary to control the flight of a rocket, which, in 1947, were too big to be squeezed into the fuselage of the rocket, could be miniaturized so that the rocket could have its own automatic guidance system. If we could duplicate what the

EBEs

had, we, too, would have the ability to explore space. In effect, the reverse engineering of solid state integrated circuitry began in the weeks and months after the crash even though William Shockley at Bell Labs was already working on a version of his transistor as early as 1946.

In the summer of 1947, the scientists at Alamogordo were only aware of the solid state circuit research under way at Bell Labs and Motorola. So they pointed

**Nathan
Twining**

to research scientists at both companies and agreed to help him conduct the very early briefings into the nature of the Roswell find. The army, very covertly, turned some of the components over to research engineers for an inspection, and by the early 1950s the transistor had been invented and transistorized circuits were now turning up in consumer products as well as in military electronics systems. The era of the vacuum tube, the single piece of eighty year old technology upon which an entire generation of communications devices including television and digital computers was built, was now coming to a close with the discovery in the desert of an entirely new technology.

The

*radio
vacuum tube*

was a legacy of nineteenth century experimentation with electric current. Like many historic scientific discoveries, the theory behind the vacuum tube was uncovered almost by chance, and nobody really knew what it was or cared much about it until years later. The radio vacuum tube probably reached its greatest utility from the 1930s through the 1950s, until the technology we discovered at Roswell made it all but obsolete.

The principle behind the radio vacuum tube, first discovered by

*Thomas
Edison*

in the 1880s while he was experimenting with different components for his incandescent lightbulb, was that current, which typically flowed in either direction across a conductive material such as a wire, could be made to flow in only one direction when passed through a vacuum. This directed flow of current, called the “Edison effect, ” is the scientific principle behind the illumination of the filament material inside the vacuum of the incandescent lightbulb, a technology that has remained remarkably the same for over a hundred years.

But the lightbulb technology that Edison discovered back in the 1880s, then put aside only to experiment with it again in the early twentieth century, also had another equally important function. Because the flow of electrons across the single filament wire went in only one direction, the vacuum tube was also a type of automatic switch. Excite the flow of electrons across the wire and the current flowed only in the direction you wanted it to. You didn’t need to throw a switch to turn on a circuit manually because the vacuum tube could do that for you.

Edison

had actually discovered the first automatic switching device, which could be applied to hundreds of electronic products from the radio sets that I grew up with in the 1920s to the communications networks and radar banks of World War II and to the television sets of the 1950s. In fact, the radio tube was the single component that enabled us to begin the worldwide communications network that was already in place by the early twentieth century.

Radio

vacuum tubes also had another important application that wasn't discovered until experimenters in the infant science of computers first recognized the need for them in the 1930s and then again in the 1940s. Because they were switches, opening and closing circuits, they could be programmed to reconfigure a computer to accomplish different tasks. The computer itself had, in principle, remained essentially the same type of calculating device that

Charles

Babbage

first invented in the 1830s. It was a set of internal gears or wheels that acted as counters and a section of "memory" that stored numbers until it was their turn to be processed. Babbage's computer was operated manually by a technician who threw mechanical switches in order to input raw numbers and execute the program that processed the numbers.

The

simple principle behind the first computer, called by its inventor the "Analytical Engine, " was that the same machine could process an infinite variety and types of calculations by reconfiguring its parts through a switching mechanism. The machine had a component for inputting numbers or instructions to the processor; the processor itself, which completed the calculations; a central control unit, or CPU, that organized and sequenced the tasks to make sure the machine was doing the right job at the right time; a memory area for storing numbers; and finally a component that output the results of the

calculations to a type of printer: the same basic components you find in all computers even today.

The same machine could add, subtract, multiply, or divide and even store numbers from one arithmetical process to the next. It could even store the arithmetical computation instructions themselves from job to job. And Babbage borrowed a punch card process invented by Joseph Jacquard for programming weaving looms. Babbage's programs could be stored on series of punch cards and fed into the computer to control the sequence of processing numbers. Though this may sound like a startling invention, it was Industrial Revolution technology that began in the late eighteenth century for the purely utilitarian challenge of processing large numbers for the British military. Yet, in concept, it was an entirely new principle in machine design that very quietly started the digital revolution.

Because Babbage's machine was hand powered and cumbersome, little was done with it through the nineteenth century, and by the 1880s, Babbage himself would be forgotten. However, the practical application of electricity to mechanical appliances and the delivery of electrical power along supply grids, invented by

*Thomas
Edison*

and refined by

*Nikola
Tesla*

, gave new life to the calculation machine. The concept of an automatic calculation machine would, inspire American inventors to devise their own electrically powered calculators to process large numbers in a competition to calculate the 1890 U.S. Census.

The
winner of the competition was

*Herman
Hollerith*

,
whose electrically powered calculator was a monster device that not only processed numbers but displayed the progress of the process on large clocks for all to see. He was so successful that the large railroad companies hired him to process their numbers. By the turn of the century his company, the Computing Tabulating and Recording Company, had become the single largest developer of automatic calculating machines. By 1929, when Hollerith died, his company had become the automation conglomerate,

IBM

Right
about the time of Hollerith's death, a German engineer named

**Konrad
Zuse**

approached some of the same challenges that had confronted

*Charles
Babbage*

a hundred years earlier: how to build his own version of a universal computing machine that could reconfigure itself depending upon the type of calculation the operator wanted to perform. Zuse decided that instead of working with a machine that operated on the decimal system, which limited the types of arithmetic calculations it could

perform, his machine would use only two numbers, 0 and 1, the binary system.

This

meant that he could process any type of mathematical equation through the opening or closing of a series of electromagnetic relays, switches that would act as valves or gates either letting current through or shutting it off. These relays were the same types of devices that the large telephone companies, like the Bell system in the United States, were using as the basis of their networks. By marrying an electrical power supply and electric switches to the architecture of Babbage's Analytical Engine and basing his computations in a binary instead of a decimal system, Zuse had come up with the European version of the first electrical digital computer, an entirely new device. It was just three years before the German invasion of Poland and the outbreak of World War II.

In

the United States at about the same time as Zuse was assembling his first computer in his parents' living room, Harvard mathematics professor

Howard

Aiken

was trying to reconstruct a theoretical version of Babbage's computer, also using electromagnetic relays as switching devices and relying on a binary number system. The difference between Aiken and Zuse was that Aiken had academic credentials and his background as an innovative mathematician got him into the office of

**Thomas
Watson**

,
president of

IBM

,
to whom he presented his proposal for the first American digital computer. Watson was impressed, authorized a budget for \$1 million, and, right before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the project design was started up at Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was then moved to IBM headquarters in New York during the war.

Because
of their theoretical ability to calculate large sets of numbers in a relatively short period of time, digital computers were drafted into the war effort in the United Kingdom as a code breaking device. By 1943, at the same time that IBM's first shiny stainless steel version of Aiken's computer was up and running in Endicott, New York, the British were using their dedicated crypto analytical

Colossus computer

to break the German codes and decipher the code creating ability of the German Enigma - the code machine that the Nazis believed made their transmissions indecipherable to the Allies.

Unlike
the IBM-Aiken computer at Harvard and Konrad Zuse's experimental computer in Berlin, the Colossus used radio vacuum tubes as relay switches and was, therefore, hundreds of times faster than any experimental computer using electromagnetic relays. The Colossus, therefore, was a true breakthrough because it married the speed of vacuum tube technology with the component design of the Analytical Engine to create the first modern era digital computer.

The

British used the Colossus so effectively that they quickly felt the need to build more of them to process the increasingly large volume of encrypted transmissions the Germans were sending, ignorant of the fact that the Allies were decoding every word and outsmarting them at every turn. I would argue even to this day that the technological advantage the Allies enjoyed in intelligence gathering apparatus, specifically code breaking computers and radar, enabled us to win the war despite Hitler's initial successes and his early weapon advantages. The Allies' use of the digital computer in World War II was an example of how a superior technological advantage can make the difference between victory and defeat no matter what kinds of weapons or numbers of troops the enemy is able to deploy.

The

American and British experience with computers during the war and our government's commitment to developing a viable digital computer led to the creation, in the years immediately following the war, of a computer called the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator, or

ENIAC

.

ENIAC was the brain child of

*Howard
Aiken*

and one of our Army R &D brain trust advisers, the mathematician John von Neumann. Although it operated on a decimal instead of a binary system and had a very small memory, it relied on radio vacuum tube switching technology. For its time it was the first of what today are called "number crunchers. "

When

measured against the way computers developed over the years since its first installation, especially the personal computers of today, ENIAC was something of a real dinosaur. It was loud, hot, cumbersome, fitful, and required the power supply of an entire town to keep it going. It couldn't stay up for very long because the radio tubes, always unreliable even under the best working conditions, would blow out after only a few hours' work and had to be replaced. But the machine worked, it crunched the numbers it was fed, and it showed the way for the next model, which reflected the sophisticated symbolic architectural design of

John

von Neumann.

Von

Neumann suggested that instead of feeding the computer the programs you wanted it to run every time you turned it on, the programs themselves could be stored in the computer permanently. By treating the programs themselves as components of the machine, stored right in the hardware, the computer could change between programs, or the routines of subprograms, as necessary in order to solve problems. This meant that larger routines could be processed into subroutines, which themselves could be organized into templates to solve similar problems. In complex applications, programs could call up other programs again and again without the need of human intervention and could even change the subprograms to fit the application. von Neumann had invented block programming, the basis for the sophisticated engineering and business programming of the late 1950s and 1960s and the great, great grandmother of today's object oriented programming.

By

800

1947, it had all come together: the design of the machine, the electrical power supply, the radio vacuum tube technology, the logic of machine processing, von Neumann's mathematical architecture, and practical applications for the computer's use. But just a few years shy of the midpoint of the century, the computer itself was the product of eighteenth and nineteenth century thinking and technology. In fact, given the short comings of the radio tube and the enormous power demands and cooling requirements to keep the computer working, the development of the computer seemed to have come to a dead end.

Although

IBM

and

*Bell
Labs*

were investing huge sums of development money into designing a computer that had a lower operational and maintenance overhead, it seemed, given the technology of the digital computer circa 1947, that there was no place it could go. It was simply an expensive to build, expensive to run, lumbering elephant at the end of the line. And then an alien spacecraft fell out of the skies over Roswell, scattered across the desert floor, and in one evening everything changed.

In
1948 the

*first
junction transistor*

- a microscopically thin silicon sandwich of w-type silicon, in which

some of the atoms have an extra electron, and p-type silicon, in which some of the atoms have one less electron - was devised by physicist

William Shockley

The invention was credited to

*Bell
Telephone Laboratories*

and, as if by magic, the dead end that had stopped the development of the dinosaur like ENIAC generation of computers melted away and an entirely new generation of miniaturized circuitry began.

Where
the radio tube circuit required an enormous power supply to heat it up because heat generated the electricity, the
transistor

required very low levels of powers and no heating up time because the transistor amplified the stream of electrons that flowed into its base. Because it required only a low level of current, it could be powered by batteries. Because it didn't rely on a heat source to generate current and it was so small, many transistors could be packed into a very small space, allowing for the miniaturization of circuitry components. Finally, because it didn't burn out like the radio tube, it was much more reliable.

Thus,
within months after the Roswell crash and the first exposure of the silicon wafer technology to companies already involved in the research and development of computers, the limitations on the size and power of the computer suddenly dropped like the removal of a roadblock on a highway and the next generation of computers went into development. This set up for Army R &D, especially during the years I was there, the opportunity for us to encourage that development with defense contracts calling for the implementation of integrated circuit devices into subsequent generations of weapons systems.

More
than one historian of the microcomputer age has written that no one before 1947 foresaw the invention of the transistor or had even dreamed about an entirely new technology that relied upon semiconductors, which were silicon based and not carbon based like the Edison incandescent tube. Bigger than the idea of a calculating machine or an Analytical Engine or any combination of the components that made up the first computers of the 1930s and 1940s, the invention of the transistor and its natural evolution to the silicon chip of integrated circuitry was beyond what anyone could call a quantum leap of technology.

The
entire development arc of the radio tube, from Edison's first experiments with filament for his incandescent lightbulb to the vacuum tubes that formed the switching mechanisms of ENIAC, lasted about fifty years. The development of the silicon transistor seemed to come upon us in a matter of months. And, had I not seen the silicon wafers from the Roswell crash with my own eyes, held them in my own hands, talked about them with

**Hermann
Oberth**

,
**Wernher
von Braun**

,
or

**Hans
Kohler**

,
and heard the reports from these now dead scientists of the meetings
between

*Nathan
Twining*

,
*Vannevar
Bush*

,
and researchers at Bell Labs, I would have thought the invention of
the transistor was a miracle. I know now how it came about.

As
history revealed, the invention of the transistor was only the
beginning of an integrated circuit technology that developed through
the 1950s and continues right through to the present. By the time I
became personally involved in 1961, the American marketplace had
already witnessed the retooling of Japan and Germany in the 1950s and
Korea and Taiwan in the late 1950s through the early 1960s. General
Trudeau was concerned about this, not because he considered these
countries our economic enemies but because he believed that American
industry would suffer as a result of its complacency about basic
research and development.

He

expressed this to me on many occasions during our meetings, and history has proved him to be correct. General Trudeau believed that the American industrial economy enjoyed a harvest of technology in the years immediately following World War II, the effects of which were still under way in the 1960s, but that it would soon slow down because R &D was an inherently costly undertaking that didn't immediately contribute to a company's bottom line. And you had to have a good bottom line, General Trudeau always said, to keep your stockholders happy or else they would revolt and throw the existing management team right out of the company. By throwing their efforts into the bottom line, Trudeau said, the big American industries were actually destroying themselves just like a family that spends all its savings.

“

You

have to keep on investing in yourself, Phil, “ the General would like to say when he'd look up from his Wall Street Journal before our morning meetings and remark about how stock analysts always liked to place their value on the wrong thing.

“

Sure,

these companies have to make a profit, but you look at the Japanese and the Germans and they know the value of basic research, “ he once said to me.

“

American

companies expect the government to pay for all their research, and that's what you and I have to do if we want to keep them working. But there's going to come a time when we can't afford to pay for it any longer. Then who's going to foot the bill?”

General

Trudeau was worrying about how the drive for new electronics products based upon miniaturized circuitry was creating entirely new markets that were shutting out American companies. He said that it was becoming cheaper for American companies to have their products manufactured for them in Asia, where companies had already retooled after the war to produce transistorized components, than for American companies, which had heavily invested in the manufacturing technology of the nineteenth century, to do it themselves.

He

knew that the requirement for space exploration, for challenging the hostile

EBEs

in their own territory, relied on the development of an integrated circuit technology so that the electronic components of spacecraft could be miniaturized to fit the size requirements of rocket propelled vehicles. The race to develop more intelligent missiles and ordnance also required the development of new types of circuitry that could be packed into smaller and smaller spaces. But retooled Japanese and German industries were the only ones able to take immediate advantage of what General Trudeau called the “new electronics. “

For

American industry to get onto the playing field the basic research

would have to be paid for by the military. It was something General Trudeau was willing to fight for at the Pentagon because he knew that was the only way we could get the weapons only a handful of us knew we needed to fight a skirmish war against aliens only a handful of us knew we were fighting.

Arthur Trudeau

was a battlefield general engaged in a lonely military campaign that national policy and secrecy laws forbade him even to talk about. And as the gulf of time widened between the Roswell crash and the concerns over postwar economic expansion, even the people who were fighting the war alongside General Trudeau were, one by one, beginning to die away. Industry could fight the war for us, General Trudeau believed, if it was properly seeded with ideas and the money to develop them. By 1961, we had turned our attention to the integrated circuit.

Government

military weapons spending and the requirements for space exploration had already heavily funded the transistorized component circuit. The radars and missiles I was commanding at Red Canyon, New Mexico, in 1958 relied on miniaturized components for their reliability and portability. New generations of tracking radars on the drawing boards in 1960 were even more sophisticated and electronically intelligent than the weapons I was aiming at Soviet targets in Germany. In the United States, Japanese and Taiwanese radios that fit into the palm of your hand were on the market.

Computers
like

ENIAC

,
once the size of a small warehouse, now occupied rooms no larger than closets and, while still generating heat, no longer blew out because of overheated radio vacuum tubes. Minicomputers, helped by government R &D funding, were still a few years away from market, but were already in a design phase. Television sets and stereophonic phonographs that offered solid state electronics were coming on the market, and companies like IBM, Sperry-Rand, and NCR were beginning to bring electronic office machines onto the market. It was the beginning of a new age of electronics, helped, in part, by government funding of basic research into the development and manufacture of integrated circuit products.

But
the real prize, the development of what actually had been recovered at Roswell, was still a few years away. When it arrived, again spurred by the requirements of military weapons development and space travel, it caused another revolution.

The
history of the
*printed
circuit*
808

and the
microprocessor

is also the history of a technology that allowed engineers to squeeze more and more circuitry into a smaller and smaller space. It's the history of the integrated circuit, which developed throughout the 1960s, evolved into large scale integration by the early 1970s, very large scale integration by the middle 1970s, just before the emergence of the first real personal computers, and ultra large scale integration by the early 1980s. Today's 200 plus megahertz, multigigabyte hard drive desktop computers are the results of the integrated circuit technology that began in the 1960s and has continued to the present. The jump from the basic transistorized integrated printed circuit of the 1960s to large scale integration was made possible by the development of the microprocessor in 1972.

Once
the development process of engineering a more tightly compacted circuit had been inspired by the invention of the transistor in 1948, and fueled by the need to develop better, faster, and smaller computers, it continued on a natural progression until the engineers at Intel developed the first microprocessor, a four bit central processing unit called the 4004, in 1972.

This
year marked the beginning of the microcomputer industry, although the first personal microcomputers didn't appear on the market until the development of Intel's 8080^a. That computer chip was the heart of the Altair computer, the first product to package a version of a high level programming language called BASIC, which allowed non-engineering types to program the machine and create applications for it. Soon companies like Motorola and Zilog had their own

microprocessors on the market, and by 1977 the Motorola 6502-powered Apple II was on the market, joined by the 8080^a Radio Shack, the Commodore PET, the Atari, and the Heathkit.

Operationally, at its very heart, the microprocessor shares the same binary processing functions and large arrays of digital switches as its ancestors, the big mainframes of the 1950s and 1960s and the transistorized minis of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Functionally, the microprocessor also shares the same kinds of tasks as Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine of the 1830s: reading numbers, storing numbers, logically processing numbers, and outputting the results. The microprocessor just puts everything into a much smaller space and moves it along at a much faster speed.

In 1979, Apple Computer had begun selling the first home computer floppy disk operating system for data and program storage that kicked the microcomputer revolution into a higher gear. Not only could users input data via a keyboard or tape cassette player, they could store relatively large amounts of data, such as documents or mathematical projections, on transportable, erasable, and interchangeable Mylar disks that the computer was able to read. Now the computer reached beyond the electronics hobbyist into the work place.

By the end of the year, MicroPro's introduction of the first fully functional word processor called WordStar, and Personal Software's

release of the very first electronic spreadsheet called VisiCalc, so transformed the workplace that the desktop computer became a necessity for any young executive on his or her way up the corporate ladder. And by the early 1980s, with the introduction of the Apple Macintosh and the object oriented computer environment, not only the workplace but the whole world looked like a very different place than it did in the early 1960s.

Even

**Dr.
Vannevar Bush**

's
concept of a type of research query language based not on a linear outline but on an intellectual relationship to something embedded in a body of text became a reality with the release of a computer program by Apple called HyperCard.

It
was as if from the year 1947 to 1980 a fundamental paradigm shift in the ability of human kind to process information took place. Computers themselves almost became something like a silicon based life form, inspiring the carbon based life forms on planet Earth to develop them, grow them, and even help them reproduce. With computer directed process control programs now in place in virtually all major industries, software that writes software, neural network based expert systems that learn from their own experience in the real world, and current experiments under way to grow almost microscopically thin silicon based chips in the weightless

environment of earth orbit may be the forerunner of a time when automated orbital factories routinely grow and harvest new silicon material for microprocessors more sophisticated than we can even imagine at the present.

Were
all of this to be true, could it not be argued that the silicon wafers we recovered from Roswell were the real masters and space travelers and the

EBE
creatures

their hosts or servants? Once implanted successfully on Earth, our culture having reached a point of readiness through its development of the first digital computers, would not the natural development stream, starting from the invention of the transistor, have carried us to the point where we achieve a symbiotic relationship with the silicon material that carries our data and enables us to become more creative and successful?

Maybe
the Roswell crash, which helped us develop the technological basis for the weapons systems to protect our planet from the EBEs, was also the mechanism for successfully implanting a completely alien non-humanoid life form that survives from host to host like a virus, a digital Ebola that we humans will carry to another planet someday. Or what if an enemy wanted to implant the perfect spying or sabotage mechanism into a culture?

Then
the implantation of the
microchip

based circuit into our technology by the EBEs would be the perfect method. Was it implanted as sabotage or as something akin to the gift of fire? Maybe the Roswell crash in 1947 was an event waiting to happen, like poisoned fruit dropping from the tree into a playground. Once bitten, the poison takes effect.

“

Hold
your horses, Phil, “ General Trudeau would say when I would speculate too much. “Remember, you’ve got a bunch of scientists you need to talk to and the people at Bell Labs are waiting to see your report when you’ve finished talking to the Alamogordo group. “

It
was 1961 and the miniaturization of computer and electronic circuitry had already begun, but my report to the general and appointments he was arranging for me at Sperry-Rand, Hughes, and Bell Labs were for meetings with scientists to determine how their respective companies were proceeding with applying miniaturized circuitry into designs for weapons systems. The inspiration for microcircuitry had fallen out of the sky at Roswell and set the development of digital computers off in an entirely new direction. It was my job now to use the process of weapons development, especially the development of guidance systems for ballistic missiles, to implement the application of microcircuitry systems to these new generations of weapons.

General

Trudeau and I were among the first scouts in what would be the electronic battlefield of the 1980s.

“

Don’t

worry, General, I’ve got my appointments all set up, “ I told him. I knew how carried away I could get, but I was an intelligence officer first, and that meant you start with a blank page and fill it in. “But I think the people at Bell Labs have already seen these things before.”

And

they actually did - in 1947.

2.2.11 Roswell and the laser (2023-02-01 23:05)

AS

I WORKED MY WAY THROUGH THE LIST OF ITEMS IN MY NUT file, writing advisory reports and recommendations to General Trudeau about the potential of each item, I lost all concept of time. I could see, as I drove up and down the Potomac shore to Fort Belvoir to check on the progress of night vision at Martin Marietta, that the summer was coming to an end and the leaves had started to change color. I could also see that now it was already dark when I left the Pentagon. And it was dark now when I set out for the Pentagon every morning. I'd gotten into the habit of taking different routes to work just to make sure that if the CIA had put a tail on me, I'd make him work harder to stay up with me.

General Trudeau

and I had settled down into a long daily routine ourselves at R & D. We had our early morning meetings about the Roswell file - he also called it the "junk pile" because it was filled with so much debris and pieces of items that had broken away from larger components - but we had buried the Roswell material development projects themselves so deep inside the regular functions of the R & D division that not even the other officers who worked with us every day knew what was going on. We'd categorized the work we did so carefully that when it came time to discuss anything about Roswell, even if it had a bearing on some other item we were working on at the time, we made sure that either no one was at the office, or we were at a place where we wouldn't have to stop talking just because someone came into the room.

My
responsibility at Foreign Technology was to feed R & D's ongoing project development with information and intelligence from sources

outside the regular army channels. These ran in interconnected rings through the Pentagon to defense industry contractors to testing operations at army bases and to researchers at universities or independent laboratories who were under contract with us. If we were developing methods of preserving food, always trying to come up with a better way to prepare field rations, and the Italians and Germans had a process that seemed to work, it was my job to learn about it and slip the information into the development process.

Even

when there was no official development process underway for a specific item, if something I learned was appropriate to anyone of the army's major commands, whether it was the Medical Corps, the Signal Corps, the motor pool, ordnance, or even the Quartermaster Corps, it was also my job to find a way to make that information appropriate and drop it in without so much as a splash. This made the perfect cover for what I was doing with the Roswell file as long as I could find ways to slip the Roswell technology into the development process so invisibly no one would ever be able to find the Roswell on ramp to the information highway.

For

all the world to see, General Trudeau and I regularly met to review the ongoing projects in Army R & D, those we had inherited from the previous command and those we wanted to initiate on our watch. Officers who'd been assigned to R & D before we arrived had their own projects already in development, too, and the general had assigned me the task of feeding those projects with information and intelligence, no matter where it came from, without disturbing either what the officers were doing or interfering with their staffs. It was tricky because I had to work in the dark, undercover even from my own colleagues whose reputations would have been destroyed if word leaked out that they were dealing in "flying saucer stuff. "

Yet

at the same time, most high ranking officers at the Pentagon and key members of their staffs knew that Roswell technology was floating through most of the new projects under development. They were also vaguely, if not specifically, aware of what had happened at Roswell itself and of the current version of the Hillenkoetter/Bush/Twining working group, which had personnel stationed at the Pentagon to keep tabs on what the military was doing.

Uniting

what I called my official “day job” at R &D on regular projects and my undercover job in

the

Roswell file

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was my official, but many times informal, role as General Trudeau’s deputy at the division. In that job, I would carry out the general’s orders as they related to the division and not specifically to any one project or another. If General Trudeau needed information to help him redefine his budgetary priorities or assemble information to help compile supplementary development budgets, he’d often ask me to help or at least give him advice.

And

I functioned as the general's intelligence officer as well, supporting him at meetings with information, helping him present position papers, assisting him whenever he had to hold briefings or meet with congressional committees, and defending him and the division against the almost weekly attacks on our turf from officers in the other military branches or from the civilian development and intelligence agencies. Everybody wanted to know what we knew, what we were spending, and what we were spending it on. And we had no quarrel with telling anybody who wanted to know exactly what kinds of goods the American people were getting for their money except when it came to one category -

Roswell

.

That's

when the mantle of darkness would fall and our memories about where certain things came from became very dim, as it did with the dramatic improvement in

night

vision technology

shortly after the summer of 1961. Even our own people became very frustrated with us when General Trudeau would turn to me at a meeting and say,

“

You

know that night vision information you sent over to Fort Belvoir a while back? Where did you find that file, Phil?” And if I couldn't play dumb and say, “I don't think I ever came across this before, must be someone else in charge, “ then I'd simply shrug and say,

"I don't know, General, must have been in the files somewhere. I'll have to go back and look. "

It

was an act, and many of the officers who suspected we had a stash of information somewhere knew we were covering up something. But if they were career, they also knew how to play the Pentagon version of steal the bacon. We had it and we were hiding it. No one would find out anything unless we let them. So the general would typically hand off anything having to do with military intelligence information to me and I would usually find a way not only to lose the answer but to lose the question as well. We became so practiced at this that entirely new inventions could find their way into development at many different places at the same time without anyone's ever becoming aware of the source of the technology, especially the officer who was assigned the task of project manager within our very own division.

The

CIA

got so frustrated at not getting any information out of us that they began keeping closer tabs on the Russian attaches floating around Washington and working under their KGB controllers at the embassies and consulates. Because the CIA knew how thoroughly our universities had been penetrated they figured they'd get information on the rebound by photographing what was inside the photocopiers at the Russian embassy in Washington. And sure enough, from the rumor mill circulating around the exchange of scientists between industry and academia, the CIA knew that we were on to something at Army R &D and kept the circle as tight around us as they possibly could. So I had to keep close tabs on the general, not letting him go into meetings, any meetings, unprotected and always making sure that the CIA knew that they would have to climb over me to get to General Trudeau and anything he knew. And the CIA knew that I knew what they were doing and where their loyalties lay and also knew that it would have to come to a showdown someday.

General

Trudeau and I had quickly established our routine in early 1961, and our categorization of how we did our jobs seemed to be working. Night vision was under development at Fort Belvoir, and researchers who worked with us had made sure that the silicon wafer chips had gotten to their colleagues at Bell Labs and assured us that a new generation of transistorized circuitry was already finding its way into development. The silicon chips were a covert reintroduction to the people at Bell Labs because the initial introduction of the integrated circuit chips from the Roswell crash had reached defense contractors as early as 1947 in the weeks after the material reached Wright Field.

A

similar history of introduction and reintroduction had occurred with stimulated energy radiation, a weapon the early analysts believed they were looking at in the wreckage of the Roswell craft. Since directed energy radiation was a technology we'd already deployed in World War II, seeing what they thought was a super advanced version of that technology, so advanced as to be in a completely different realm, so excited the analysts at Wright Field that they wanted to get it out to research scientists as quickly as possible, which they did. And by the early 1950s, a version of stimulated energy radiation had found its way into the scientific community, which was developing new products around the process of microwave generation.

Most

Americans who were alive in the 1950s remember the introduction of the microwave oven that helped us "live better electrically" in our new modern kitchens. One of the miracle appliances that burst onto the scene in the 1950s promised to cook food in less than half

the time of conventional ovens, even when the food had been completely frozen. Marketed under a variety of brand names including the now historic "Radar Range, " the

*microwave
oven*

cooked whatever was inside not by the application of pure heat, the way conventional ovens did, but by bombarding the food with showers of tiny waves of electromagnetic radiation, usually only a centimeter or so long.

The waves would pass through the food, exciting the water molecules deep inside and causing them to align and realign, back and forth, with greater velocity. The molecular activity generated heat from within and the food cooked from the inside out. Once you enclosed it in the right kind of container to keep all the moisture from evaporating, you had a quick cooked meal.

The theory behind the microwave oven that started us down the long and profitable path of stimulated energy research was formulated in 1945 with the first commercial microwave ovens rolling off the line at Raytheon in Massachusetts in 1947 before any dissemination of either intelligence or material from the crash of the Roswell spacecraft. But in the wreckage of that craft, the scientists from the test firing range at Alamogordo reported that the inhabitants of the craft seemed to use very advanced wave stimulation instrumentation that, according to their analysis, bore a relationship to the physics of a basic microwave generator.

The retrieval team that pulled the wreckage out of the desert also found a short, stubby, internally powered flashlight device that threw a pencil thin, intense beam of light for a short distance that could actually cut through metal. This, the engineers at Wright Field believed, was also based on wave stimulation. The questions then were, how did the

EBEs

use wave stimulation and how could we adapt it to military uses or slip it into the product development already under way?

By 1954, when I was at the White House, the National Security Council was already receiving reports of a theory, developed by

Charles H. Townes

, that described how the atoms of a gas could be excited to extraordinarily high energy levels by the application of bursts of energy. The gas would release its excess energy as microwaves of a very precise frequency that could be controlled. In theory, we thought, the energy beam could be a signal to carry communications or an amplifier for the signal. When the first maser was assembled at Bell Laboratories in 1956, it was used as a timer because of the very exact calibration of the wave frequency.

The maser

, however, was only a forerunner of the product that was to come, the laser, which would revolutionize every aspect of technology it

touched. It would also prove to be a weapon that would help us deploy a realistic threat to the EBEs who seemed poised to trigger a nuclear war between the superpowers. Where the maser was an amplification of generated microwaves, the laser was an amplification of light, and theories about how this might be accomplished were circulating widely throughout the weapons development community even before Bell Labs produced the first

maser

I had seen the descriptions of the EBE laser in reports about the Roswell crash, a beam of light so thin that you couldn't even see it until it landed on a target.

What

was the purpose of this light generator? the Alamogordo group had asked. It looked like a targeting or communications device, seemed to have an almost limitless range, and, if the right power source could be found to amplify the light beam to where it could penetrate metal, the device could be used as a drill, a welder, or even a devastating weapon.

Even

while I was at the White House, all three branches of the military were working with researchers in university laboratories to develop a working laser. In theory, exciting the atoms of an element to produce light energy in the same way that atoms of a gas were excited to produce microwaves, lasers offered the tantalizing promise of a directed energy beam that had such a wide variety of applications it could become an almost universal utility for all divisions of the military, even controlling warehouse inventory for the Quarter master Corps. Finally, in 1958, the year after I left the White House, there was a surge in research activity, especially at Columbia University where, two years later, physicist

**Theodore
Maiman**

constructed the first working laser.

The first practical demonstration of the laser took place in 1960, and by the time I got to the Pentagon, General Trudeau had put it on our list of priorities to develop for military purposes. Also, because stimulated energy radiation devices were among the cache of technological debris we recovered from Roswell, the U.S. development of the laser encompassed the special urgent requirements of my Roswell mission. I had to write a report to General Trudeau suggesting ways the EBEs might have used laser technology in their missions on this planet and how we could develop similar uses for it under the guise of a conventional development program. In other words, once we guessed how the aliens were using it, it was to become our developmental model for similar applications.

We
believed that the

*EBEs
used lasers for navigation*

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by bouncing beams off distant objects in space and homing in on them to triangulate a course; for communication, by using the laser beam as a carrier signal or as a signal in and of itself; for surveillance, by painting potential targets with a beam; and for power transmission, illumination, and even data storage. The strength and integrity of the laser beam should have served as the EBEs' primary method of communication over vast distances or even as a way of storing communications in packages for later delivery.

However,
it was the EBEs' use of directed energy as a medical tool and ultimately as a potential weapon that sent shivers up and down our spines because to our minds it was evidence of the aliens' hostile intentions. Whether they saw us as true enemies to be destroyed or regarded all life on our planet as laboratory specimens to be experimented with, the results from the animal carcasses picked up in the field by our military nuclear, biological, and chemical recovery teams and the civilian intelligence investigators could have been very much the same.

In
the Pentagon from 1961 to 1963,¹ reviewed field reports from local and state police agencies about the discoveries of dead cattle whose carcasses looked as though they had been systematically mutilated and reports from people who claimed to have been abducted by aliens and experimented on. One of the common threads in these stories were reports by the self described abductees of being subjected to some sort of probing or even a form of surgery with controlled, intense, pencil thin beams of light.

Local
police reported that when veterinarians were called to the scene to examine the dead cattle left in fields, they often found evidence not just that the animal's blood had been drained but that entire organs were removed with such surgical skill that it couldn't have

been the work of predators or vandals removing the organs for some depraved ritual. Where there was evidence of crime of someone staging a bizarre hoax, it was usually obvious from the clumsiness of the attempt and the deliberate staging of the carcass. And in the overwhelming majority of instances where

the animal was killed by a predator who consumed its blood and carried away internal organs

, the evidence of teeth marks or of a brief life and death struggle was also a clear indicator of what had happened.

But

in those cases where investigators claimed to have been baffled by what they found, the removal of the organs and the draining of the animal's blood - where blood had been completely drained - were so sophisticated that there was almost no peripheral damage to the surrounding tissue. There was even some speculation, in the early 1960s, that whatever device the EBEs had employed, it didn't even cut through the surrounding tissue. We had no medical instruments that even remotely approached what the aliens could do. It was as though some device had simply excised the organs with techniques that even went beyond our own surgical precision.

While

I was on the White House National Security staff and later when I was at the Pentagon, I was intrigued by these reports. I also remember that both civilian and military intelligence personnel attached to the staffs of individuals who worked for the Hillenkoetter and Twining working group on UFOs in the 1950s were actively engaging in research into the kinds of surgical methods that would produce "crime scene evidence" like this.

Could

have been the Russians, they thought at first. Given the tense climate of the Cold War, a fear that the Soviets were experimenting with American livestock to develop some form of toxin or biological weapon that would devastate our cattle population was not unduly paranoid. It's sufficient to say, without going into any detail, that we were thinking about the same kinds of weapons, so it was not far fetched to say that we were projecting our own doomsday strategies onto what the Russians might have done.

But

it wasn't the Soviets who were going after our cattle. In fact the Soviet strategy for destabilizing the United States was so sophisticated that it was only a strategy of playing nuclear chicken with the Soviets that forced them to back down in the end. It was the

EBEs

who were experimenting with organ harvesting, possibly for transplant into other species or for processing into some sort of nutrient package or even to create some sort of hybrid biological entity.

This

is what people attached to the working group thought in the 1950s and 1960s, and even though we had no solid intelligence at the time that we were right, we operated on the assumption that no one takes an

organ just for the sheer pleasure of removing it. Although the first public reports of cattle mutilations surfaced around 1967 in Colorado, at the White House we were reading about the mutilation stories that had been kept out of press as far back as the middle 1950s, especially in the area around Colorado.

There was speculation, also, that maybe pharmaceutical companies were responsible because they could utilize the organs and soft tissues in biological experimentation, but we dismissed that because the companies had their own farms and could grow anything they wanted. Our intelligence organizations and especially the working group believed that the cattle mutilations that could not be obviously explained away as pranks, predators, or ritual slaughter were the results of interventions by extraterrestrials who were harvesting specific organs for experimentation.

So if our cattle were important enough to the EBEs to get them to expose what they were doing, it was an important thing for us to understand why. The EBEs were nothing if not coldly and clinically efficient - their methodology reminded us of the Nazis - and they didn't waste time sitting around on the ground where they were most vulnerable to attack or capture unless they had a darn good reason for doing so.

We

didn't know their reasons back in the 1950s and 1960s and can only make educated guesses about them now, but back then we were driven by a terror that unless we found ways to defend ourselves against the EBEs we would be corralled by them and used for replacement tissue or as a source of nutrition. In 1997 this may sound like a nightmare out of a flying saucer horror movie, but in 1957 this was our thinking both in the White House and in the military. We didn't know, but we had irrefutable evidence that EBEs were landing on farms, harvesting vital organs from livestock, and then just leaving the carcasses on the ground because they knew we couldn't do anything about it.

The

mutilations

that interested the National Security personnel seemed to have the same kind of modus operandi. Whoever went after the animals seemed most interested in the mammary, digestive, and reproductive organs, especially the uteruses from cows. In many cases the eyes or throats were removed in a type of surgery in which the demarcation line was almost microscopically thin and the surrounding tissue showed that the incision had super heated and then blackened as it cooled.

But

the crime scene and forensic specialists noted that in any type of cut by a predatory animal or a human - even a skilled surgeon - one would find evidence of some trauma in the surrounding tissue such as swelling, contusions, or other forms of abrasion. In these reports of mutilations, forensic examination showed no evidence of collateral trauma or even inflammation.

Therefore, they believed, the cuts to extract the tissue were made so quickly and wounds were sealed so fast that the surrounding tissue never was destroyed. This meant that whoever was operating on these animals did so in a matter of minutes. It was rare, therefore, that police would ever catch them in the act. So if we couldn't protect our livestock or react intelligently to the stories of human abductions, except to debunk them and make the abductees themselves think they were delusional, we had to find weapons that would put us on a more equal footing with the

EBEs

One of those weapons, which had a wide application potential, was the laser - light amplification through stimulated energy radiation - the device the army found in the Roswell spacecraft and would later develop as a weapon in cooperation with Hughes Aircraft.

Shortly after the first successful demonstration of a ruby red laser at Columbia University, the three military branches realized they had a winner. The following year, the results of the tests at Columbia, the industry interest in developing laser based products, and the Roswell report on stimulated energy all merged on my desk. Now it was my turn to get involved and assemble the information to support laser product development with military funds before the whole operation was turned over to one of the R & D specialists who would take the product through its next stages. That was the way our backfield worked: I fed the play, made sure the snap got off, and then faded in behind the blockers. By the time the ball carrier had made his way into the secondary, I was already off the field. I never got the Heisman Trophy, but I sure as hell moved the ball.

I
began by listing the needs of the army for what
the
laser

might be able to accomplish. Based on what the army analysts reported they saw in the Roswell ship, it seemed to me obvious that if the Roswell laser was a cutting or surgical tool, the beam could also be utilized as an advanced rapid firing weapon. With a beam so precise and directed, the laser would also make an excellent range finder and target manager for artillery. If the beam was capable of instantaneous read adjustment and fed into a computer, it would also be the perfect targeting system for a tank, especially a tank on the move.

Typically,
a tank must stop before it can fire because the gunner needs to have a fixed firing platform from which he calculates range direction, and other compensating factors. The laser can do all that while the vehicle is moving and should therefore enable a tank to stay on the move while firing. And if a laser can paint a target from a tank and find the range, I speculated, it can do the same for a helicopter from air to air and air to ground.

I suggested to General
Trudeau that all the research we were conducting into helicopter tactics, especially into the role of helicopters as infantry support gun and rocket platforms, dovetailed perfectly with the possibilities of the laser as a range finding mechanism. We could paint friendly troops to locate them, identify our foes, and

illuminate potential targets with light invisible to all but our own gunners. At the same time, our own bombs or missiles can home in on the laser image we project onto a target, like a heat seeking missile. Once painted, the target could evade the laser guided rocket or shell only with great difficulty. For a stationary target such as a fortification or artillery redoubt, a laser guided shell would be particularly devastating because we could take it out with one or two rounds instead of having to go back again and again to make sure we'd found the target.

As

a signal, a laser is so intense, refined, and perfectly stable that it is almost impervious to any kind of disturbance. For this reason, I wrote General Trudeau, the EBEs must have used an advanced form of a laser for their communication, and we can, too. The intensity of the beam and its highly refined focus mean that it can be aimed with minute precision. Amplifying the power to boost the signal should not distort the beam's aim, which makes it perfect for straight line long distance communication.

Lasers

also have high capacities for carrying multiple signals. Therefore, I wrote the general, we can pack a greater number of transmission bands into a laser signal than we can with our conventional signal carriers. This meant that we could literally flood a battlefield with different kinds of communication channels, each carrying different kinds of communication, some not even invented yet, and have them securely carried by laser signals. For command and control on the increasingly sophisticated electronic battlefield the army was predicting for the 1970s, lasers would become the Signal Corps workhorses.

General

Trudeau said that he was also interested in an item from one of the specification reports that other military observers wrote that said that lasers could also serve as projection devices for large screen displays. Lasers were so bright that displays could be shown in rooms that didn't have to be darkened. The general saw the possibility of fully lit situation rooms with large screen displays from satellite radar transmissions. The room would allow computer operators to see what they were doing at their keyboards while seeing the displays and listening to the briefing.

I

suggested that the army cartography division would be particularly interested in the accuracy of the laser derived measurements for maps. That same measurement ability would also be able to generate digital data for ground hugging infantry support helicopters or low flying planes. Aircraft that could stay close to the ground could avoid enemy radar and stay concealed until the last minute. But unless there was a method for accurately charting the topography, aircraft could find themselves scraping tree tops or crashing into the side of a hill. If a laser could accurately transmit topographic features to altitude control and navigational computers on board attack aircraft, it would keep the aircraft safely above any ground obstacles but close enough to the ground to remain concealed.

This

ground hugging capability that I suggested to General Trudeau had been suggested to me from the analysis reports of UFOs that also had this capability. It was what enabled them to hover close to the ground and to move rapidly at speeds over a thousand miles an hour at

treetop level without hitting anything. The laser type devices aboard the UFO instantly fed the craft with the topographic features of the landscape and the craft automatically adjusted to the terrain.

In late 1961, General Trudeau asked me to visit Fort Belvoir again, this time to meet a

**Dr.
Mark Johnston**

, one of aeronautical research scientists from Hughes Aircraft. Fort Belvoir was one of the safe houses for the Office of R &D to conduct meetings in because it was a secure military facility. My comings and goings there on Army R &D business were completely routine, even to the CIA surveillance teams that would occasionally pick up my car coming out of the Pentagon, and could be covered in our daily logs with references to the ongoing projects that served as covers. My meeting with Johnston, for example, was to talk about the Hughes helicopter development program, not to give him my reports on the laser measuring devices we believed were in the Roswell spacecraft.

I briefed Johnston on what the scientific team from Alamogordo believed was on the spacecraft, asked him not to talk about it, and suggested that the Hughes team developing the navigational radars for the helicopter project consider using the newly developed lasers as terrain measuring apparatus and for target acquisition.

“

Yes,
of course, “ I assured him. “The Office of R &D would have a
development budget for the laser project if the R &D team at
Hughes thought our idea was feasible and they could develop it. “

And
that’s exactly what happened. Using the positive results from the
Columbia University test and the army weapons specifications we drew
up in R &D for the requirements of a range finder, targeting, and
tracking weapon, and with research grants from the Pentagon, Hughes
signed on as one of the contractors for the military laser. Today,
the laser has become the

HEL

,
or

*High
Energy Laser*

,
deployed by the army’s Space Defense Command as, among other
things, an antisatellite/antiwarhead weapon.

My
meeting at Hughes was quick and direct. Like so many of the research
scientists I met with from Hughes, Dow, IBM, and Bell, Johnston
disappeared behind the work benches, computer screens, or test tubes
of the company’s back room and out of my sight forever. When
General Trudeau would ask me to follow up on the project months
later, a different company representative would meet with me and the
project would look just like any other Army R &D initiated
research contract. Any traces of Roswell or the nut file would be
gone, and the project would have been slipped into the normal R &D
functioning. Of course this device didn’t come out of the Roswell
incident. The incident was only a myth; it never took place. This
came out of the Foreign Technology desk, something the Italians or
French were working on and we picked up through our intelligence
sources.

Our
work with laser products was becoming so successful by the end of
1961 that

*General
Trudeau*

was urging me to spread the wealth around as many army bases as I
could. I spoke to weapons experts at Fort Riley, Kansas, for example,
about the use of lasers by troops in the field. Maybe as range
finders, we suggested, or even as ways to lock onto a target the way
the air force was experimenting with something they were calling
“smart bombs. “ By 1964, after seeing the research into the
feasibility of lasers that we had commissioned, hand held range
finders were being tested at army bases around the country, and
today, police forces use laser sights on their weapons. Lasers became
one of the army’s great successes.

In
one of our final pushes for the development of laser based weapons
systems, we argued successfully for a budget to develop laser
tracking systems for incoming missiles. This was a project we fought
hard for, over political opposition as well as opposition from the
other military branches, which were looking at our proposal as a
conventional method of tracking missiles.

The
laser was too new, they argued. Atmospheric interference or heavy

clouds would distort the laser over long distances, they said. Or, they said, it would simply take too much power and would have no portability. General Trudeau and I had another agenda for this project that we couldn't readily share with anybody. We believed that lasers could be used not just to track incoming missiles - that was obvious. We saw the lasers too as our best weapon for not only tracking

UFOs

from the ground, from aircraft, or from satellites but, if we could boost the power to the necessary levels, for shooting them down. Shoot down a few of them, we speculated, and they wouldn't violate our airspaces with such impunity.

Equip

our fighter planes or interceptors with laser firing mechanisms and we could pose a credible threat to them. Equip our satellites with laser firing mechanisms and we could triangulate a firing pattern on the UFOs that might even keep them away from our orbiting spacecraft. But all of this was speculation in late 1961.

Only

a very few people in the other branches of R &D even had a hint about what we were proposing. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration had its own plans for developing laser tracking systems and didn't want to share any development budget with the military, so there was very little help forth coming from

NASA

The air force and navy were guarding their own development budgets for laser weapons, and we couldn't trust the civilian intelligence agencies at all.

So

**General
Trudeau**

and I began advocating a plan as a cover to develop

*laser
tracking*

and other sophisticated types of surveillance projects. It was outrageous on the surface, but it quickly found its adherents, and its real agenda could be completely masked. We could never call it an anti-UFO device so we named it the antimissile missile. It was one of the most successful projects ever to come out of Army R &D. It owed most of its theory to our discovery of the laser in the

*Roswell
wreckage*

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2.2.12 Other technologies from Roswell (2023-02-01 23:10)

I
BARELY PICKED MY HEAD UP FROM THE PILES OF TECHNICAL proposals on my desk during the winter months of

1961. The work didn't even stop for the Christmas holiday, when most of Washington likes to take a break and head for the West Virginia mountains or the Maryland countryside. I was traveling a lot during the final months of 1961, seeing weapons undergo testing at proving grounds around the country, meeting with university researchers on such diverse items as the preservation of food or the conversion of spent atomic pile material into weapons, and developing intelligence reports for General Trudeau on the kinds of technologies that might shape weapons development into the next decade.

With
my other eye, I was keeping a look out for any reports going to the Air Intelligence Command about UFO sightings that I thought Army Intelligence should be thinking about. The AIC was the next step in classification from the Project Blue Book people. Its job, besides the obvious task of moving any urgent UFO reports up the ladder of secrecy to the next levels where they would disappear behind the veil of camouflage, was to classify the type of event or incident the sighting seemed to indicate.

Usually

that meant separating real aircraft sightings that needed to be investigated for pure military intelligence purposes from either true UFO sightings that needed to be processed by whatever elements of the original working group were on watch or false sightings that needed to be sent back down to Blue Book to be debunked. The AIC loved it when it had actual false sightings it could send back: an obvious meteorite that they could confirm, some visual anomaly having to do with an alignment of planets, or, best of all, a couple of clowns somewhere that decided to pull a Halloween prank and scare the locals.

There

were guys running around wheat fields with snowshoes or submitting photos of flying frozen pie tins to the local papers. Then the folks at Blue Book could release the story to the press, and everybody patted themselves on the back for the job they were all doing. Life could be fun in the early 1960s, especially if you didn't know the truth.

Moving

into 1962, Army Intelligence was lit up with rumors about potential threats coming in from all over the place. The anti-Castro Cubans were mad about the President's refusal to support the Bay of Pigs invasion and were looking for revenge; Castro was mad about the Bay of Pigs invasion and was looking to get back at us; Khrushchev was still furious about the U2 and the Bay of Pigs and thinking Kennedy was a pushover, would soon jump on an opportunity to force us into some humiliating compromise.

The

Russians were on the verge of sending manned spacecraft into extended orbital flights and robot probes out to explore Venus. We were way behind in the space race and none of the services had the budget or the ability to get us back into the fight.

NASA

was telling the President they would have to dig in, develop the technology base, and, by the middle of the decade, put on a show for the whole world. But now, as the year turned, it was all silent running until we could put something up we could brag about.

The

army was making ominous noises about events in Southeast Asia. The more the army pushed to get troops on the ground, the more the Kennedy administration refused to get involved. The army was telling the President we would eventually be sucked into a war we could not win and the events would control us instead of our controlling them. Later that same year, I would be offered the job of director of intelligence for the Army Special Forces units already operating in the Southeast Asian theater.

At

about the same time the army said it was going to name

Gen.

Arthur Trudeau

as the commander of all U.S. forces in South Vietnam. As our names

were being circulated, General Trudeau confided to me that he doubted we would get the jobs. And if we did, he said, it would be a toss-up as to who would be the most unhappy, the Vietcong or the U.S. Army.

“

If they send us over there, Phil, “ he said after one of our morning briefings, “one of two things will happen. Either we’ll both get court martialed or we’ll win the damn war. Either way the army’s not going to like the way we do business. “

As usual, General Trudeau was right. Before the end of 1962 and right about the time the old man was making up his mind whether to retire or not, his name was vetoed as the commander of all U.S. forces in Vietnam and I was told to stay at my desk. The handwriting was on the wall: Vietnam was going to be a political war run by the disinformation specialists at the CIA and fought under a cloud of unknowing. Unfortunately, history proved us to be correct. By the time Richard Nixon surrendered to the Chinese and we crawled out of Southeast Asia a few years later, we would learn, I hope for the last time, what it was like to be humiliated on the battlefield and then eviscerated at the negotiating table.

The
new year brought

J. Edgar Hoover

over to the Pentagon. The FBI director was growing increasingly anxious at all the Roswell stories circulating like ice cold currents deep under the ocean throughout

NASA

and the civilian intelligence agencies. Somebody was conspiring about something, and that meant the

FBI

should get involved, especially if the CIA was messing around in domestic issues. Hoover didn't like the

CIA

and he especially didn't like the cozy relationship he thought President Kennedy had with the CIA because he believed his boss, the President's brother, was keeping him on a short leash when it came to taking on the agency about territorial issues.

Hoover knew, but didn't believe, that after the Bay of Pigs, Kennedy had become very suspicious of the intelligence information he was getting from the CIA. By the end of 1962, the President would learn from his own brother, who would learn from me, just how deliberately flawed the information coming out of the CIA was. And I would also learn, when I worked for Senator Russell on the Warren Commission in 1964, how that had sealed his fate.

But in 1962, still near the height of his power, J. Edgar Hoover was as territorial as any lifetime bureaucrat in Washington could be. And when somebody stepped on his toes, or when he thought someone had stepped on his toes, he kept kicking them until the guy was dead. Even his own agents knew what it was like to get on his bad side. I was as territorial in my own way as the FBI director was in his, and during my years at the White House under President Eisenhower, we had established a professional relationship. If he needed to know

something that bore on some KGB agent nosing around the government, I helped him out. If I needed to find something out on the qt. about somebody I needed to take out of the bureaucratic loop, he would tell me what he knew. We never established any formal relationships in the 1950s, but we let each know who we thought the bad guys were.

In

the 1950s, Hoover got interested in the rumors about Roswell because anything the CIA got their teeth into made him nervous. If it were only the military running a cover-up, he could live with that, although he thought the military never should have run the OSS during World War II. But once he suspected the CIA was part of the Roswell story, he wanted in. But in my years on the White House staff, there wasn't much I could tell him. It wouldn't be until 1961 that I got my hands on what really happened at Roswell, and then I didn't have to contact him. He called me.

We

found we could help each other. Besides being territorial, J. Edgar Hoover was an information fanatic. If there was a bit of information floating around, whether it was rumor or truth, Hoover was obsessive about putting it into his files. Information was such a valuable commodity to him, he was willing to trade for it with anybody in government he trusted. I wanted information, too. I was going out to meetings with scientists and university researchers whose loyalties I couldn't verify. I had to be very circumspect about the technological information I was delivering, and many times I needed to know whether a particular chemist or physicist had ever been suspected of dealing with the Communists or, worse, was on the payroll of the CIA.

In

retrospect I can see how all this smacks of the thinking of Senator Joe McCarthy, but I was at the White House during the army McCarthy hearings and I can tell you straight out that

**Joe
McCarthy**

- unwittingly - was the best friend the Communists ever had in government. Single handedly, Senator McCarthy helped give respectability to a bunch of people who would never have had it otherwise. He turned behaving in contempt of Congress into a heroic act by his very tactics, and the Communists in government were laughing at the free rein he gave them. All they had to do was provide him with a human sacrifice every now and then, someone completely unimportant or actually innocent of any wrong doing, and McCarthy pilloried them on television. But when he turned against the US. Army, he crossed into my territory and we had to shut him down.

The
Communists used McCarthy to give them good press and open up an area where they could work while the anti-Communists were made to look like fools. I told this to Robert Kennedy, who as a young lawyer had been a member of Roy Cohn's investigative staff working for the McCarthy subcommittee and who had learned firsthand what it was like to be completely misled into self destructive behavior. It was a mistake, he confided to me, that he would never make again. Unfortunately, his brother's enemies were his own, and he was misled into thinking that being president would allow him to settle the score.

But
in January of 1962 all that was on my mind was reestablishing a relationship with J. Edgar Hoover so that I could pursue my agenda while keeping a lookout for who might be dangerous out there in the academic community. Now I had something to bargain with for the information I wanted. Not only did I have the bits and pieces of the Roswell story that I knew Hoover wanted, I also had information about the domestic activities of the CIA. Hoover was more than interested

in sharing information, and we continued to talk right through 1962 until I left the army and went over to Senator Thurmond's staff.

Our relationship continued right through 1963. And in 1964, when I was an investigator for Senator Russell on the Warren Commission and Hoover was pursuing his own independent investigation into the President's assassination, he and I could only stare at one another again on either side of the abyss of that crime. Stacked up against the enormity of what had happened, Hoover and I both understood that there are some battles you cannot win. So you leave them alone so you can fight another day.

I'm not sure whether J. Edgar Hoover ever really believed that the Roswell story was true, an absolute conspiracy to cover up something else, or just a delusion that became mass hysteria out there in the desert. There were so many details buried in army memos and maintained under layers of cover stories fabricated by military intelligence experts that he couldn't possibly know the truth. But like the good cop that he was, he took information wherever he could find it and kept on searching for something that made sense.

If

the army saw a threat to our society, then Hoover thought there was a threat. And whenever he could follow up a report of a sighting with a very discreet appearance by a pair of FBI agents to interview the witnesses and get away with it, he did. He was more than willing to share that information with me, and that was how I found out about some of the unpublicized cattle mutilation stories in the early 1960s.

My

J. Edgar Hoover connection was important to me as I began my work in the early weeks of 1962 because the level of research into the types of projects we were developing became very intense. The rumors of General Trudeau's appointment to the Southeast Asia command and my selection as intelligence director for the Green Berets in Southeast Asia, as vague and unconfirmed as they were, set a deadline for the general and me to push our projects forward because we knew we had only a year or so left on our tenure at R &D.

So

when the FBI director and I would talk, I had questions ready to ask. No information we ever shared was in writing, and any notes that I took from the conversations we had I later destroyed after committing them to memory or taking action on the things he said. Even to this day, although FBI agents have contacted me about records supposedly still left in the old files, I don't know what notes the FBI director took about our conversations and what specific actions he ever took. Because we trusted each other and remained in contact once every six months or so even after I left government service, I never followed up on anything I said and never asked for any verification of information in the files. I think Hoover appreciated that.

By

February of 1962 I had lined my nut file projects up for an end run that would take me to the end of the year and either South Vietnam or retirement. The first folder on the desktop was the “glass filaments. “

Fiber Optics

Members

of the retrieval team who foraged around inside the spacecraft on the morning of the discovery told

Colonel Blanchard

back at the 509th that they were amazed they couldn't find any conventional wiring.

Where

were the electrical connections? they asked, because obviously the vehicle had electronics. They didn't understand the function of the printed circuit wafers they found, but, even more important, they were completely mystified by the single glass filaments that ran through the panels of the ship. At first, some of the scientists thought that they comprised the missing wiring that also had the engineers so confused as they packed the craft for shipping. Maybe they were part of the wiring harness that was broken in the crash. But these filaments had a strange property to them.

The

wire harness seemed to have broken loose from a control panel and was separated into twelve frayed filaments that looked something like quartz. When, back at the 509th's hangar, officers from the retrieval team applied light to one end of the filament, the other end emitted a specific color. Different filaments emitted different colors. The fibers - in reality glass crystal tubes - led to a type of junction box where the fibers separated and went to different parts of the control panel that seemed to acknowledge electrically the different color pulsing through the tube.

Since

the engineers evaluating the material at Roswell knew that each color of light had its own specific wavelength, they guessed that the frequency of the light wave activated a specific component of the spacecraft's control panel. But beyond that, the engineers and scientists were baffled. They couldn't even determine the spacecraft's power source, let alone what generated the power for the light tubes. And, the most amazing thing of all was that the filaments not only were flexible but still emitted light even when they were bent back and forth like a paper clip.

How

could light be made to bend? the engineers wondered. This was one of

the physical mysteries of the Roswell craft that stayed hidden through the 1950s until one of the Signal Corps liaisons, who routinely briefed General Trudeau on the kinds of developments the Signal Corps was looking for, told us about experiments in optical fibers going on at Bell Labs.

The
technology was still very new,

**Hans
Kohler**

told me during a private briefing in early 1962, but the promise of using light as a carrier of all kinds of signals through single filament glass strands was holding great promise. He explained that the premise of optical fibers was to have a filament of glass so fine and free of any impurities that nothing would impede the light beam moving along the center of the shaft. You also had to have a powerful light source at one end, he explained, to generate the signal, and I thought of the successful ruby laser that had been tested at Columbia University. I knew the

EBEs

had integrated the two technologies for their glass cable transmission inside the spacecraft.

“

But
what makes the light bend?” I asked Professor Kohler, still incredulous that the aliens seem to have been able to defy one of our own laws of physics. “Is it some kind of an illusion?”

“It’s
not a trick at all, “ the scientist explained. “It only looks like an illusion because the fibers are so fine, you can’t see the different layers without a microscope. “

He

showed me, when I gave him the broken pieces of filament that I still had in my nut file, that each strand, which looked like one solid piece of material enclosing the circumference of a tiny tube, was actually double layered. When you looked down the center of the shaft you could see that around the outside of the filament was another layer of glass. Dr. Kohler explained that the individual light rays are reflected back toward the center by the layer of glass around the outside of the fiber so that the light can't escape. By running the glass fibers around corners and, in the case of the Roswell spacecraft, through the interior walls of the ship, the aliens were able to bend light and focus it just like you can direct the flow of water through a supply pipe. I'd never seen anything like that before in my life.

Kohler

explained that, just like lasers, the light can be made to carry any sort of signal : light, sound, and even digital information.

“

There's

no resistance to the signal, “ he explained. “And you can fit more information on to the light beam. “

I asked him how the

EBEs might have used this type of technology. He suggested that all ship's communication, visual images, telemetry, and any amplified signals that the vehicles sent or received from other craft or from bases on the moon or on earth would use these glass fiber cables.

“They seem to have an enormous capacity for carrying any kind of load, “ he suggested. “And if a laser can amplify the signal, in their most refined form, these cables can carry a multiplicity of signals at the same time. “

I was more than impressed. Even before asking him about the specific types of applications these might have for the army, I could see how they could make battlefield communications more secure because the signals would be stronger and less vulnerable to interference. Then Professor Kohler began suggesting the uses of these fibers to carry visual images photographed in tiny cameras from the weapons themselves to controlling devices at the launcher.

“
Imagine,
” he said, “being able to fire a missile and actually see through the missile’s eye where it’s going. Imagine being able to lock onto a target visually and even as it tries to evade the missile, you can see it and make final adjustments. “

And
Kohler went on to describe the potential of how fiberoptics based sensors could someday keep track of enemy movements on the ground, carry data heavy visual signals from surveillance satellites, and pack very complicated multichannel communications systems into small spaces.

“
The
whole space program is dependent upon carrying data, voice, and image, “he said. “But now, it takes too much space to store all the relays and switches and there’s too much impedance to the signal. It limits what we can do on a mission. But imagine if we could adapt this technology to our own uses. “

Then

he looked me very squarely in the eye and said the very thing that I was thinking.

“

You

know this is their technology. It's part of what enables them to have exploration missions. If it became our technology, too, we'd be able to, maybe we could keep up with them a little better. “

Then

he asked me for the army's commitment. He explained that some of our research laboratories were already looking into the properties of glass as a signal conductor and this would not have to be research that was started from complete scratch. Those kinds of start ups gave us concern at R &D because unless we covered them up completely, it would look like there was a complete break in a technological path. How do you explain that? But if there's research already going on, no matter how basic, then just showing someone at the company one of these pieces of technology could give them all they need to reverse engineer it so that it became our technology. But we'd have to support it as part of an arms development research contract if the company didn't already have a budget. This is what I wanted to do with this glass filament technology.

“

Where

is the best research on optical fibers being done?” I asked him.

“Bell Labs, “ he answered. “It'll take another thirty years to develop it, but one day most of the telephone traffic will be carried on fiberoptic cable. “

Army

R &D had contacts at Bell just like other contractors we worked with, so I wrote a short memo and proposal to General Trudeau on the potential of optical fibers for a range of products that Professor Kohler and I discussed. I described the properties of what had been previously called a wiring harness, explained how it carried laser signals, and, most importantly, how these fibers actually bent a stream of light around a corner and conducted it the same way a wire conducts an electrical current. Imagine conducting a beam of high intensity single frequency light the same way you'd run a water line to a new bathroom, I wrote. Imagine the power and flexibility it provided the

EBEs

,
especially when they used the light signal as a carrier for other coded information.

This

would enable the military to recreate its entire communications infrastructure and allow our new surveillance satellites to feed find store potential targeting information right into frontline command and control installations. The navy would be able to see the deployment of an entire enemy fleet, the air force could look down on approaching enemy squadrons and target them from above even if our planes were still on the ground, and for the army it would give us an undreamed of strategic advantage. We could survey an entire battlefield, track the movements of troops from small patrols to entire divisions, and plot the deployments of tanks, artillery, and helicopters at the same time.

The value of fiberoptic communication to the military would be immeasurable. And, I added, I was almost certain that a development push from the army to facilitate research on the complete reengineering of our country's already antiquated telephone system would not be seen by any company as an unwarranted intrusion. I didn't have to wait long for the general's response.

"

Do it, " he ordered. "And get this under way fast. I'll get you all the development allocation you need. Tell them that. " And before the end of that week, I had an appointment with a systems researcher at the Western Electric research facility outside of Princeton, New Jersey, right down the road from the Institute for Advanced Study. I told him it came out of foreign technology, something that the intelligence people picked up from new weapons the East Germans were developing but thought we could use.

"If what you think you have, " he said over the phone, "is that interesting and shows us where our research is going, we'd be silly not to lend you an ear for an afternoon. "

"I'll need less than an afternoon to show you what I got, " I said. Then I packed my Roswell field reports into my briefcase, got myself an airline ticket for a flight to Newark Airport, and I was on my way.

**Super-tenacity
Fibers**

Even

before the 1960s, when I was, still on the National Security staff, the army had begun to look for fibers for flak jackets, shrapnel proof body armor, even parachutes, and a protective skin for other military items. Silk had always been the material of choice for parachutes because it was light, yet had an incredible tensile strength that allowed it to stretch, keep shape, and yet withstand tremendous forces. Whether the army's search for what they called a "tenacity fiber" was prompted purely by its need to find better protection for its troops or because of what the retrieval team found at Roswell, I do not know. I suspect, however, that it was the discovery at the crash site that began the army's search.

Among

the items in my Roswell file that we retained from the retrieval were strands of a fiber that even razors couldn't cut through. When I looked at it under a magnifying glass, its dull grayness and almost matte finish belied the almost supernatural properties of this fiber. You could stretch it, twist it around objects, and subject it to a level of torque that would rend any other fiber, but this held up. Then, when you released the tension, it snapped back to its original length without any loss of tension in its original form. It reminded me of the filaments in a spiderweb. We became very interested in this material and began to study a variety of technologies, including spider silks because they, alone in nature, exhibit natural super tenacity properties.

The

spiders' spinning of its silk begins in its abdominal glands as a protein that the spider extrudes through a narrow tube that forces all the molecules to align in the same direction, turning the protein into a rod like, very long, single thread with a structure not unlike a crystal. The extrusion process not only aligns the protein molecules, the molecules are very compressed, occupying much less space than conventionally sized molecules. This combination of lengthwise aligned and super compressed molecules gives this thread an incredible tenacity and the ability to stretch under enormous

pressure while retaining its tensile strength and integrity. A single strand of this spider's silk thread would have to be stretched nearly fifty miles before breaking and if stretched around the entire globe, it would weigh only fifteen ounces.

Clearly,
when the scientists at Roswell saw how this fiber - not cloth, not silk, but something like a ceramic - had encased the ship and formed the outer skin layer of the

EBEs

,
they realized it was a very promising avenue for research. When I examined the material and recognized its similarity to spider thread, I realized that a key to producing this commercially would be to synthesize the protein and find a way to simulate the extrusion process. General Trudeau encouraged me to start contacting plastics and ceramics manufacturers, especially

Monsanto

and

Dow

,
to find out who was doing research on super-tenacity materials, especially at university laboratories. My quick poll paid off.

I
not only discovered that Monsanto was looking for a way to develop a mass production process for a simulated spider silk, I also learned that they were already working with the army. Army researchers from the Medical Corps were trying to replicate the chemistry of the spider gene to produce the silk manufacturing protein. Years later, after I'd left the army, researchers at the University of Wyoming and Dow Corning also began experiments on cloning the silk manufacturing gene and developing a process to extrude the silk

fibers into a usable substance that could be fabricated into a cloth.

Our

research and development liaison in the Medical Corps told me that the replication of a super-tenacity fiber was still years away back in 1962, but that any help from Foreign Technology that we could give the Medical Corps would find its way to the companies they were working with and probably wouldn't require a separate R &D budget. The development funding through U.S. government medical and biological research grants was more than adequate, the Medical Corps officer told me, to finance the research unless we needed to develop an emergency crash program. But I still remained fascinated by the prospect that something similar to a web spinner had spun the strands of super-tenacity fabric around the spaceship. I knew that whatever that secret was, amalgamating a skin out of some sort of fabric or ceramic around our aircraft would give them the protection that the Roswell craft had and still be relatively lightweight.

Again,

I didn't find out about it until much later, but research into that very type of fabrication was already under way by a scientist who would, years later, win a Nobel Prize. At a meeting of the American Physical Society three years before,

**Dr.
Richard Feynman**

gave a theoretical speculative assessment of the possibilities of creating substances whose molecular structure was so condensed that the resulting material might have radically different properties from the non-compressed version of the same material. For example, Feynman suggested, if scientists could create material in which the molecular structures were not only compressed but arranged differently from conventional molecular structures, the scientists might be able to alter the physical properties of the substance to suit specific applications.

This

seemed like brand new stuff to the American Physical Society. In reality, though, compressed molecular structures were one of the discoveries that had been made by some of the original scientific analytical groups both at Alamogordo right after the Roswell crash and at the Air Materiel Command at Wright Field, which took delivery of the material. As a young atomic physicist, Richard Feynman was a colleague of many of the postwar atomic specialists who were in the army's and then the air force's guided missile program as well as the nuclear weapons program in the 1950s.

Although

I never saw any memos to this effect, Feynman was reported to have been in contact with members of the Alamogordo group of the Air Materiel Command and knew about some of the finds at the Roswell crash site. Whether these discoveries suggested theories to him about the potential properties of compressed molecular structures or whether his ideas were also extensions of his theories about the quantum mechanics behavior of electrons, for which he won the Nobel Prize, I don't know. But Dr. Feynman's theories about compressed molecular structures dovetailed with the army efforts to replicate the super-tenacity fiber composition and extrusion processes. By the middle of the 1960s work was under way not only at large industrial ceramics and chemical companies in the United States but in university research laboratories here, and in Europe, Asia, and India.

With

my questions about who was conducting research into super-tenacity fibers answered and learning where that research was taking place, I could turn my attention to other applications of the technology to see whether the army could help move the development along faster or whether any collateral development was possible to create products in advance of the super-tenacity fibers. Our scientists told us that one way to simulate the effect of super-tenacity was in the cross alignment of composite layers of fabric. This idea was the premise for the army's search for a type of body armor that would protect against the skin piercing injuries of explosive shrapnel and rounds fired from guns.

“

Now this won't protect you against contusions, “ General Trudeau told me after a meeting with Army Medical Corps researchers at Walter Reed. “And the concussive shock from an impact will still be strong enough to kill anybody, but at least it's supposed to keep the round from tearing through your body. “

I

thought about the many blunt trauma wounds you see in a battle and could imagine the impact a large round would leave even if it couldn't penetrate the skin. But through the general's impetus and the contacts he set up for me at

*Du
Pont*

and
Monsanto

,

we aggressively pursued the research into the development of a cross aligned material for bulletproof vests. I hand carried the field descriptions of the fabric found at Roswell to my meetings at these Companies and showed the actual fabric to scientists who visited us in Washington.

This
was not an item we wanted to risk carrying around the country. By
1965, Du Pont had announced the creation of the

**Kevlar
fabric**

that, by 1973, was brought to market as the Kevlar bulletproof vest
that's in common use today in the armed Services and law
enforcement agencies. I don't know how many thousands of lives have
been saved, but every time I hear of a police officer whose Kevlar
vest protected him from a fatal chest or back wound, I think back to
those days when we were just beginning to consider the value of cross
aligned layers of super-tenacity material and am thankful that our
office played a part in the product's development.

Our
search for
*supertenacity
materials*

also resulted in the development of composite plastics and ceramics
that with stood heat and the pressures of high speed air maneuvers
and were also invisible to radar. The cross stitched super-tenacity
fibers on the skin of the Roswell vehicle, which I believe had been
spun on, also became an impetus for an entirely new generation of
attack and strategic aircraft as well as composite materials for
future designs of attack helicopters.

One

of the great rumors that floated around for years after the Roswell story became public with the testimony of retired Army Air Force major

**Jesse
Marcel**

before he died was that

*Stealth
technology aircraft were the result of what we learned at Roswell*

.
That is true, but it was not a direct transfer of technology. Army Intelligence knew that under certain conditions the

**EBE
spacecraft**

had the ability to hide their radar signature, but we didn't know how they did it. We also had pieces of the Roswell spacecraft's skin, which was a composite of super-tenacity molecular aligned fibers.

As
far as I know, we've still not managed to recreate the exact process to manufacture this composite, just like we've not been able to duplicate the electromagnetic drive and navigation system that enabled the Roswell vehicle to fly even though we have that vehicle and others at either Norton, Edwards, and Nellis Air Force bases. But through the study of how this material worked and what its properties are, we've replicated composites and rolled an entirely new generation of aircraft off the assembly line.

Although

the American public first heard about the existence of a Stealth technology in President Jimmy Carter's campaign against President Ford in 1976, we didn't see the Stealth in action until the air attacks on Iraq during the Persian Gulf War. There, the Stealth fighter, completely invisible to Iraqi radar, launched the first high risk assaults on the Iraqi air force air defense system and operated with almost complete impunity. Invisible to radar, invisible to heat seeking missiles, striking out of the night sky like demons, the Stealth fighters, with their flying wing almost crescent shaped, look uncannily like the space vehicle that crashed into the arroyo outside of Roswell.

But appearances aside, the composite skin of the Stealth that helps make it invisible to almost all forms of detection was inspired by the Army R &D research into the skin of the Roswell aircraft that we sectioned apart for distribution to laboratories around the country.

Depleted Uranium Invisible Artillery Shells

For the air force, Stealth technology meant that aircraft could approach a target invisible to radar and maintain that advantage throughout the mission. For the army, Stealth technology for its helicopters provides an incredible advantage in mounting search and destroy,

Special Forces recon, or counter insurgency missions deep into enemy territory. But the possibility of a

*Stealth
artillery shell*

, which we conceived of at R &D in 1962, would have allowed us something armies have sought ever since the first deployment of artillery by a Western European army at Henry V's victory at Agincourt in the early fifteenth century.

Certainly Napoleon would have wanted this ability when he deployed his artillery against the British line at Waterloo. So would the Germans in World War I when their artillery pounded the Allied forces hunkered down in their trenches and again at the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 when those of us stationed in Rome could only pray that our boys could hang on until the clouds broke and our bombers could hit the German emplacements.

In all artillery battles, once a shell is fired, it can be tracked by an observer back to its source and then return fire can be directed against whoever is firing. But as the range of artillery increased and we found ways to camouflage guns, we became proficient in hiding artillery until the advent of battlefield radar, which allows the trajectory of shells to be tracked back to their source. But imagine if the shell were composed of a material that rendered it invisible to radar? That was the possibility we proposed to General Trudeau: an invisible artillery shell, I suggested to him in his office one morning as we were designing the plan for research and development of composite materials.

On

the night battlefield of the future you could deploy weapons that were invisible even to radar tracking planes flying over head behind the lines. Shells would start falling, and the enemy wouldn't know where they were coming from until after we had the advantage of five or more unanswered salvos. By then, and with the advantage of surprise, the damage might well be done. If we were using mechanized artillery, we could set up positions, fire a series of quick salvos, redeploy, and set up again.

The secret lay not just in
the same

Stealth
aircraft technology

but also in the development of a Stealth ceramic that could withstand tremendous explosive barrel pressures and still maintain an integrity through the arc of its trajectory. The search for just such a molecularly aligned composite ceramic was inspired by the composite material of the Roswell spacecraft. In analysis after analysis, the army tried to determine how the extraterrestrials fabricated the material that formed the hull of the spacecraft but was unable to do so.

The
search for the kind of molecularly aligned composite began in the 1950s even before General Trudeau took command of R &D,

continued during my tenure at Foreign Technology when the early “Stealth” experimentation began at Lockheed that resulted in the F117 fighter and Stealth bomber, and continues right through to today.

The general was also more than interested in the kinds of warheads we would propose for just such a shell, a warhead that did come into use in 1961 and was successfully deployed during the Gulf War. And we had a suggestion for a round that we thought could change the nature of the kinds of battles we projected we’d be fighting against the Warsaw Pact forces, a warhead fabricated out of depleted uranium. This was a way to utilize the stockpile of uranium we foresaw we’d have as a result of spent fuel from commercial nuclear reactors, reactors powering U.S. Navy vessels, and the nuclear reactors the army was developing for its own bases and for delivery to bases overseas.

[1]

Depleted uranium

was a dense, heavy metal, so dense in fact that conventional armament was no match for a high speed round tipped with it. Its ability to penetrate even the toughest of tank armor and detonate once it was inside the enemy vehicle meant that a single round fired from one of our own tanks equipped with a laser range finder would disable, if not completely destroy, an enemy tank. Depleted uranium would give us a decided advantage on a European battlefield on which we knew we’d be outnumbered two or three to one by the Warsaw Pact or in China where sheer numbers alone would mean that either we’d be overwhelmed or we’d have to resort to nuclear weapons. The depleted uranium shell kept us from having to go nuclear.

Privately,

I suggested to General Trudeau that depleted uranium also fulfilled our hidden agenda. It was another weapon in a potential arsenal we were building against hostile extraterrestrials. If depleted uranium could penetrate armor, might the heaviness of the element enable it to penetrate the composite skin of the spacecraft, especially if the spacecraft were on the ground? I suggested that it certainly merited development at the nearby Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, and if it proved worthwhile, it was a weapon we should deploy.

Even

though the composite ceramic Stealth round is still an elusive dream in weapons development, the depleted uranium tipped war head saw action in the Gulf War, where it didn't just disable the tanks of the Iraqi Republican Guard, it exploded them into pieces. Fired from the laser range finder equipped Abrams tanks, TOW missile launchers, or even from Hedgehog infantry support aircraft, the depleted uranium tipped warheads wreaked havoc in the Gulf. They were one of the great weapons development successes of Army R &D that came out of what we learned from the Roswell crash.

HARP

- The High-Altitude Research Project

HARP

was another project whose need for research and development was suggested to us by the challenge posed by flying saucers. They could out fly our own aircraft, we had no guided missiles that could bring them down, and we didn't have any guns that could shoot them down. We were also exploring weapons systems that had a double or triple use, and HARP, or "the big gun, " was one such system.

Essentially,

Project

HARP

was the brainchild of Canadian gunnery expert and scientist

**Dr.
Gerald Bull**

Bull had studied the threat posed by the German “Big Bertha” in World War I and the Nazi V3 supergun toward the end of World War II. He realized that long range, high powered artillery was not only a practical solution to launching heavy payload shells, it was very affordable once the initial research and development phase was completed.

Mass produced big guns and their ordinance, assembled in stages right on the site, could provide enormous firepower well back from the front lines to any army. They would become a strategic weapon to rain nuclear destruction down on enemy population centers or military staging areas.

Dr. Bull had also suggested that the gun could be retasked as a launch vehicle, blasting huge rounds into orbit, which could then be jettisoned, like the booster stage of a rocket, so the payload warhead could thrust itself into position. This would require a minimum amount of rocket fuel and could effectively push a string of satellites into orbit very quickly, almost like an artillery barrage. If the army needed to put special satellites into orbit in a hurry or, better still, explosive satellites that would pose a threat to orbiting extraterrestrial vehicles, the big gun was one method of accomplishing this mission.

There
was still a third potential to
the
supergun

.
General Trudeau foresaw the ability of this weapon to launch rounds that could ultimately be placed into a lunar orbit. Especially if hostilities broke out between the United States and USSR or, as we expected, between Earth military forces and the extraterrestrials, we could re-supply a military moon base without having to rely on rocket launch facilities, which would demand long turn around times and be very vulnerable to attack. A camouflaged supergun, even a series of superguns, would allow us all the benefits of a field artillery or quick response antiaircraft unit, but with a piece that could launch payloads into space. It was this combination of capabilities that delighted General Trudeau because it enabled one R & D project to help create many different systems.

The
United States, Canada, and the British military combined their joint expertise to find ways to develop Dr. Bull's supergun with General Trudeau, I believe, becoming one of Bull's staunchest supporters. But by the time military budget decisions had to be made to fund the weapon, all of the governments military establishments had become committed to the guided missile and rocket launched space vehicle rather than a supergun. While the weapon had some potential, the United States, UK, and Canada were too far along with their own missile programs to start up a completely new type of weapon. And in the end, they decided to end the research while still keeping close tabs on Bull's efforts to sell his technology to other powers, especially governments in the Middle East.

Through
the 1980s,

*Gerald
Bull*

,
whom I had met at a reception honoring General Trudeau in 1986,
Entered into negotiations with the Israelis as well as with the
Iraqis and perhaps even the Iranians. The decade long war between

*Saddam
Hussein*

and Iran proved a fertile sales territory for weapons merchants in
general, and particularly for Gerald Bull, who was courted by both
sides. In the end, he cut his deal with the Iranians, testing
experimental versions of a supergun and planning to build the monster
weapon before the British intervened and seized shipments of gun
barrel units before they were shipped out of the country. By this
time, Dr. Bull may have become a liability to the Iraqis, as well as
to the Israelis and to the United States as well, and was shot to
death outside his apartment in Belgium before the outbreak of the
Gulf War.

Like
Jules Verne's character Barbicane in *From the Earth to the Moon*,
Bull had a vision of the potential of a long range artillery piece.
Unlike Barbicane, he came very close to proving it a practical way of
launching vehicles into space. The murder of Gerald Bull has never
been solved, and whatever secrets he still possessed about the
assembly of a gun to launch vehicles into space probably died with
him in the hallway outside his apartment.

List of Omissions

As
I worked through the stack of projects on my desk during the spring
months of 1962, I found I was devoting more of my time to the Roswell

file and less to some of the other projects under development. It was apparent to me that the treasure trove we'd retrieved from Roswell was beginning to pay off in ways that not even I thought would happen. There were so many army research projects under way, I told my boss, that were not foundering, but sputtering along that could benefit from something similar found in the Roswell wreckage it we could find the match between the two.

*Night
vision*

,

lasers

,

and

*fiberoptic
communication*

were obvious, I said to him, but I was sure there were other areas we could find just by looking at the problems posed by what we discovered from Roswell, not just retrieved from the wreckage.

"

Make
it specific, Phil, " the general asked. "What do you mean?"

"If you just look at what we didn't find at the crash site,
" I said. "That goes a long way to explaining the differences
between what we are and what they are. It also shows us what we need
to develop if we're going to prepare for long periods of travel in
space. "

“Can you make me a list?” the general asked.

“There are a lot of ongoing research contracts out there that could benefit from a list of things we’d have to concern ourselves with if we’re going to be planning for space travel in the next fifty years. “

By
the time our conversation was finished,

**General
Trudeau**

had asked me to prepare not only a list of what were called the “omissions” at Roswell but a very brief report detailing the areas where I thought development needed to take place. So I assembled all the reports and information in the Roswell file and began looking for what was missing that I might expect to find at a space traveler’s crash site.

There
was no mention in any of the reports of any food source or nutrient, and no one discovered any food preparation units or stored food on board the spacecraft, nor were there any refrigeration units for food preservation. There was no water on the ship either for drinking, washing, or flushing of waste, nor were there any waste or garbage disposal facilities. The Roswell field reports said that the retrieval team found something they thought was a first aid kit because it contained material that a doctor said was for bandaging purposes, but there were no medical facilities nor any medications. And finally, the army retrieval team said there were no rest facilities at all on board the ship; nothing that could be construed as a bunk or a bed.

From
this available data the army assumed that this

UFO

was a reconnaissance craft and could quickly return to a larger or

mothership

where all of the missing items might be found. The other explanation

Dr. Hermann Oberth

came up with was that this was a time dimensional travel ship that
didn't traverse large distances in space. Rather,

it

*"jumped" from one time space to another or from one dimension to
another*

and instantly returned to its point of origin. But this was just Dr.
Oberth's speculation, and he would usually discount any of it the
moment he believed I was taking it as fact.

I
believed, however, that the EBEs didn't require food or facilities
for waste disposal because they were fabricated beings, just like
robots or androids, who had been created specifically for space
travel and the performance of specific tasks on the planets they
visited. Just like our lunar rover in the 1970s, which was a robot,
so these creatures had been programmed with specific tasks to perform
and carried them out. Perhaps their programming could be updated or
altered from a remote source, but they weren't life forms that
required ongoing sustenance. They were the perfect creatures for long
voyages through space and for visiting other planets. Human beings,
however, weren't robots and did require sustenance. Therefore, it
would be necessary to provide for long term sustenance and waste
disposal needs if humans were going to travel long distances in
space.

Other

scientists from our R &D ad hoc brain trust suggested that, indeed, this could have only been a scout ship that either got caught in our tracking radars from the 509th or from Alamogordo or was hit by lightning in the fierce electrical storm that night. They believed that the ship was navigated by an electromagnetic propulsion system. Other scientists suggested that even before we could generate the necessary power to drive such a propulsion system, we would have to have developed some form of a nuclear powered ion drive first. As for the absence of food, scientists suggested that this would pose a major drawback for long term human space exploration. Thus, in my quick and dirty proposal for General Trudeau, I suggested that the army had to complete the development of at least two items that I knew had been in the R &D system for at least ten years: a food supply that could never spoil and didn't require refrigeration and an atomic drive that could be assembled in space out of components as the power plant for an interplanetary space craft.

Irradiated Foods

The
general read my notes a few days later, and seemed impressed. He knew from the memo I had left him the night before that I'd be ready to talk about my omissions list the next day, but he didn't say anything to me right away. Instead, he picked up the phone, dialed a number, told someone at the other end that he'd be right over, then looked up at me.

“

Go
get your hat, “ he said. “Meet me on the helipad. We’ve been
invited to lunch. “

Ten
minutes later after the general’s helicopter had picked us up, we
circled the Pentagon once and were flown over to the Quarter master
Center.

An
officer who shall remain anonymous met us at the helipad. He saluted
as we got off the chopper. “Thank you for joining us. “

He
took us inside to a downstairs store room where he showed off shelves
and shelves of all types of meat, fruit, and vegetables.

“

Look
at this pork, “ he said. “It’s been stored here unrefrigerated
for months and it’s completely free of trichina worm. “ He held
up a couple of loose eggs and a chicken breast. “Eggs,
unrefrigerated, and chicken. Completely free of bacterium salmonella.
And it’s the same for the seafood. “

He escorted us along the shelves of food and, almost like a salesman, presented the virtues of each of the items. The food was wrapped, but not vacuum sealed, in a clear cellophane to keep it free from dust and surface dirt, but it was not preserved in any manner that I could determine.

“
Free of fungus or any spores, “ he said about the vegetables. “No mold or any insect infestations in the fruit, “ he said.

“
And the milk, it’s been here on the shelf for over two years and it’s not even slightly sour. We’ve taken great steps to preserve food completely without salting, smoking, refrigeration, freezing, or even canning. “

“Does this answer one of your questions, Colonel?” General Trudeau asked as we looked at the stocks of food that seemed completely resistant to spoilage.

The commanding general of the Quartermaster Center joined us in the stockroom.

“
Pick your lunch, gentlemen,” he said and chose a thick steak for himself.

“

I’m
going to have this and, if you don’t mind, I’ll take the liberty
of ordering up the same thing for you, General Trudeau, and you, too,
Colonel. How about some potatoes and maybe some strawberries for
dessert. All fresh, delicious, and harmless. “

Then
he paused. “And completely bombarded with what some people would
call lethal doses of radiation to destroy any bacteria or
infestation. “

We
were escorted upstairs to the commandant’s dining room, where we
were joined by a number of other officers and civilian research and
food technology experts who described the
process
of ionizing radiation

to destroy the harmful bacteria while preserving the food without
canning or smoking. The irradiation process was so complete that if
the food were maintained in an antiseptic or dust free atmosphere, it
wouldn’t be attacked and would remain uncontaminated. However,
because the atmosphere was as dirty as any other atmosphere inside
any other building, the food was wrapped in cellophane. Other foods
were packaged in a clear plastic wrap and were displayed for visitors
like us just as if they were on supermarket shelves.

“

We first wanted to determine whether the whole concept of irradiated food was safe, " one of the engineers explained. "So our first studies were made with food which was irradiated and then stored in the frozen area. We fed these foods to rats and noticed no harmful effects. Then we did the same thing except this time we increased the radiation to six mega rads and then froze the food. Again, no harmful effects. "

His presentation continued while we ate, accompanied by charts that showed how the sterilization rate was increased to try to find any harmful effects on rats. Then they tested the irradiated and then frozen food on human volunteers.

"

But wait, " I asked. "I still don't understand why you irradiated the food and then froze it. "

The engineer was waiting for this question because he had his answer already prepared. He acted like he'd been asked it many times before.

"

Because," he said, "we were testing only for harmful effects from the radiation, not for spoilage, not for taste, not even for harmful effects from the food itself even though we knew it had been sterilized and was tested completely free from bacteria when it was

defrosted. What we needed to prove in field trials was the harmlessness to animals and humans of the irradiation process. “

Then
he described the field trials to prove that irradiation preserved food stored at room temperature.

“

We
selected high spoilage foods, “ he said. “Like the meats, chicken, and especially the seafood. We also made composite foods like stews which we fed to rats and dogs along with straight meat and then straight tuna. We first irradiated a sample at three mega rads then another sample at six mega rads and tested the animals over a period of six months to see whether radiation became concentrated in any of their organs or bones.” He paused, letting the dramatic effect of what he was going to say sink in while we were sinking our teeth into the irradiated foods that resulted from the years of experimentation throughout the 1950s.

“

No
toxicological effects whatsoever. And we were very thorough before we tested these foods on human volunteers. “

“What’s next?”
I asked.

“We’re setting taste trials of favorite foods at Fort Lee, Virginia, to see how troops in the field respond to this. We think that before the end of the decade we’ll have a variety of Meals Ready to Eat for troops in the field who have no benefit of cooking facilities or refrigeration. “

General

Trudeau looked across the table at me and I nodded. This was perfectly good food that was right up to any quality you'd care to measure.

"

Gentlemen,

" General Trudeau said as he stood. As a three star general, he was the highest ranking officer in the room, and when he spoke everyone was silent. "My assistant believes that your work is of utmost importance to the U.S. Army, our nation, and the world, and will contribute to our travel in space. I am of the very same opinion. We are most impressed with your test results and want to help you expand your operation and speed up the testing process. The army needs what you've developed. In the next two weeks, submit to me your supplementary budget to expand your operation and I want it also included into next year's budget. "

Then

he turned to me, nodded, and we thanked the commanding general for lunch and walked out to General Trudeau's helicopter.

"How

about that, Phil?" he asked. "I think we checked off some of the items on your list right on the spot. "

The pilot helped the

general into his seat and I got around on the other side.

"So

what do you think?" he asked again.

"I think if we move any faster we'll have the

EBEs

down here asking for some of our irradiated food, " I said.

General

Trudeau laughed as we whisked off the helipad and headed back for the short jump to the Pentagon.

“

Now

you have to get to work on finding out what you can about your atomic propulsion system. If NASA ever gets it into its mind to push ahead with building its space station, I'd like the military to have a power source that can keep us up there for a while. If we can get a surveillance window on our visitors, I want it sooner rather than later. “

And

before the week was out, I was at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, again looking at the developments the army had made in the development of portable nuclear reactors.

Portable Atomics

A

challenge posed to us directly by the army's retrieval of

the

Roswell craft

and our further discovery that the craft was not propelled by a conventional engine - either propeller, jet, or rocket - pressed upon us the critical realization that if we were to engage these extraterrestrial creatures in space we would need a propulsion system that gave us a capability for long distance travel similar to theirs. But we had no such system. The closest form of energy we had that did not rely on a constant supply of fuel was atomic power in a controlled, sustained reaction, and even that was far away from development. However, at the close of the war the army had operational control over atomic weapons because, under Gen.

**Leslie
Groves**

,
director of the Manhattan Project, the army had established the bureaucracy that developed and deployed the atomic bomb.

So
for army engineers, struggling to find out how the Roswell spacecraft was powered, atomic power was the easiest form of propulsion to seize upon, in part because it was the most immediate. However, by 1947, a struggle was already breaking out within the Truman administration over who would control nuclear power, a civilian commission or the military. As the nation was making the transition from wartime to peace time, the specter of a General Groves secretly dictating how and in what manifestation atomic power would be used frightened Truman's advisers.

So
in the end,

*President
Truman*

made the decision to turn control of the nation's nuclear program over to a civilian commission. Thus, by 1947, the army was getting out of running the nuclear power business, but that didn't mean that research into the military applications of nuclear power plants stopped. We needed to develop nuclear reactors, not only to manufacture nuclear power propulsion systems for naval vessels and for on site installation of power generating stations, but to experiment with ways nuclear power could be made portable in space by assembling systems in orbit from component parts.

This
would enable us to maintain long term outposts in space and even to power interplanetary vessels that could serve as a defensive force against any extraterrestrial hostile forces. If this sounds like science fiction, remember, it was 1947, and the nation had barely gotten out of World War II before the Cold War had begun. War, not peace, was on the mind of the military officers who were in charge of the Roswell retrieval and analysis of the wreckage.

The
army, I discovered from the "Army Atomic Reactors" reports at Fort Belvoir, not only had a very sophisticated portable reactor program under way, but had already built one in cooperation with the

air force for installation at the Sundance Radar Station six miles out of Sundance, Wyoming, early in 1962. This was a highly sophisticated piece of power generating apparatus that provided steam heat to the radar station, electrical power for the base, and a very precisely controlled separate power supply for the delicately calibrated radar equipment. But this wasn't the first portable power plant, as most people thought it was.

The
first

*portable
nuclear reactor plant*

anywhere was for a research facility in Greenland, under the Arctic ice cap, designed for Camp Century, an Army Corps of Engineers project nine hundred miles from the North Pole. Ostensibly operated by the Army Polar Research and Development Center conducting experiments in the Arctic winter, Camp Century was also a vital observation post in an early warning system monitoring any Soviet activity at or near the North Pole and any activity related to UFO sightings or landings.

During
the years when I was at the White House, the UFO working group had consistently pushed

**President
Eisenhower**

to establish a string of formal listening posts - electronic pickets staffed by army and air force observers at the most remote parts of the planet - to report on any UFO activity.

**General
Twining**

's
group had argued that if the EBEs had any plans to establish

semipermanent Earth bases, it wouldn't be in a populated area or an area where our military forces could monitor. It would be at the poles, in the middle of the most desolate surroundings they could find, or even underneath the ocean.

The polar caps seemed like the most obvious choices because during the 1950s we had no surveillance satellites that could spot alien activity from orbit, nor did we have a permanent presence at the two poles. It was thought that we wouldn't be able to put any sophisticated devices at the poles, either, because doing so would require more power than we could transport. However, the army's Nuclear Power Program, developed in the 1950s at Fort Belvoir, provided us with the ability to install a nuclear powered base anywhere on the planet.

In 1958, work was started on the Camp Century power plant, which was to be constructed beneath the ice in Greenland. Initially this was supposed to be top secret because we didn't want the Soviets to know what we were up to. Ultimately, however, the high security classification proved too unwieldy for the army because too many outside contractors were involved and the logistics, transportation to Thule, Greenland, then installation on skids beneath the ice pack created a cover story nightmare. So Army Intelligence decided to drop the security classification entirely and treat the entire plan as a scientific information gathering expedition by its polar research group.

Just

like the whole camouflage operation that had protected the existence of the working group, Camp Century provided the perfect cover for testing out a procedure for constructing a prefabricated, prepackaged nuclear reactor under arduous conditions and flying it to its site for final assembly. It also provided the army with a means of testing the performance of the reactor and how it could be maintained at an utterly desolate location in the harshest climate on the planet.

The

plant was the first of its kind. It had a completely modular construction that had separately packaged components for air coolers, heat exchangers, switch gear, and the turbine generator. The power plant also had a mechanism that used the recycled steam to melt the ice cap surface to provide the camp's water supply. The entire construction was completed in only seventy seven days, and the camp remained in operation from October 1960 to August 1963, when the research mission completed its work. The entire operation was successfully taken apart and placed in storage in 1964, and the site of Camp Century was completely restored to its natural state.

I received reports about the camp's operation during the later months of 1962 after

**General
Trudeau**

had asked me about the feasibility of the army's portable atomics program as a way to instigate research into a launchable atomics program for generating power in orbit. I was so enthusiastic about the success of our portable atomics and the way they provided the research platform for the subsequent development of mobile atomics that I urged the general to provide as much funding as R & D could to enable the Fort Belvoir Army Nuclear Power Program to construct and test as many mobile and portable power plants as possible.

Each power plant gave us a kind of a beachhead into remote areas of the world where the EBEs might have wanted to establish a presence because they believed they could go about it undetected. They were a kind of platform. Once we had demonstrated the ability to protect remote areas of the earth, we'd be in a better position to establish a presence in space.

The atomics program, which was in part a direct outgrowth of the challenge posed to us from our analysis of the Roswell craft, ultimately helped us develop portable atomic power plants, which are now used to power Earth satellites as well as naval vessels. It showed us that we could have portable atomic generators and gave the army a longer reach than anybody might have thought. Ultimately, it allowed us to maintain surveillance and staff remote listening posts. It also provided the basis for research into launching nuclear power facilities into space to become the power plants of new generations of interplanetary vehicles. The

*portable
atomics program*

allowed us to experiment with ways we would develop atomic drives for our own space exploration vehicles, which, we believed, would enable us to establish military bases on the moon as well as on the planets near us in the solar system.

And
from our successes with atomics, we turned our attention to the
development of the weapons we could mount on surveillance satellites
in orbit, weapons we developed directly from what we found in

**the
flying saucer at Roswell.**

1. http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/ciencia/ciencia_uranium01.htm

2.2.13 Accelerated Particle Beam Weapon from Roswell (2023-02-01 23:12)

Embedded in the army field reports and air materiel Command engineering evaluations analyzing the Roswell craft were descriptions of how the spacecraft might have utilized a form of energy known as “directed energy, “ powerful beams of excited electrons that could be precisely directed at any target. We didn’t know very much about directed energy back in 1947, or more precisely put, we didn’t know how much we knew because in reality we knew a lot.

But the information that had been readily available since the 1930s was lying sequestered at a public storage facility, under the authority of the federal government, over on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the notes of the mysterious inventor Nikola Tesla, whose experiments and reputed discoveries have become the stuff of bizarre but exciting legend.

The laser surgical cutting tool found in the Roswell wreckage was one form of directed energy beam device whose ability to fire rapidly and with precision revealed that the extraterrestrials had a potential in weaponry far superior to ours. However, if the craft had been brought down by lightning, itself a directed energy beam of one of the highest magnitudes, then it revealed their vulnerability to bolts of electrons. That stimulated the thinking of army scientists and researchers into the analysis of the potential of a directed energy beam weapon.

Today, fifty years after the crash of the spacecraft at Roswell, these weapons are far more than the device that the Emperor Ming aimed at Earth in the Flash Gordon serials; they are a reality that can be launched on a guided missile, separated from a booster, aimed by an internal computer guidance system at any incoming device, whether an ICBM warhead or a space vehicle, and fired with devastating effect.

This weapon has been a true Army R &D success story.

“The possibilities for benefits to the military are enormous, “ I wrote to General Trudeau in my 1962 analysis of the potential for directed energy weapons. “Although, as we have seen, even the most rudimentary of directed energy products, the microwave oven, has more than

repaid the initial research and development overhead through consumer product sales, it is the military that will see the greatest benefits from directed energy and is already seeing the potential from it in the applications that are being projected for the laser which is only two years old. “

The concept of a weapon that relied on a directed energy beam, whatever the nature of that beam was, was not a completely new concept to the military community, although its origins were totally shrouded in secrecy. The first test of a directed energy weapon, a particle beam accelerator code named Seesaw whose beam was to be aimed at incoming guided missiles, was first conducted in 1958, two years before the successful demonstration of the laser, by the Advanced Research Projects Agency. Although the test took place the year that I was in Red Canyon, New Mexico, I had known about the project first when I was on the National Security Council at the White House and then again after the successful experiments against a simulated target.

In theory, the particle beam weapon looked like it would work, assuming the technological development of power generators, electrical storage apparatus, and the computer software to aim and fire the weapon. We already had a rough model for the particle beam weapon in nature: the lightning bolt, a pure, intense beam of electrons firing between opposite poles and destroying or incapacitating anything it hit that was not grounded. Scientists from Benjamin Franklin to Nikola Tesla have tried to chain the force of lightning as a power source.

Now the Advanced Research Projects Agency was experimenting with the theory to apply it to a new and deadly weapon. If they could build the hardware and write the software, the developers at ARPA decided they would be able to generate an intense beam of either electrons or neutral hydrogen atoms, aim it at an incoming target, and fire the particle beam impulses that would travel near the speed of light and excite the atoms in the target until they literally blew apart. Whatever didn't blow up would be destroyed electronically and rendered useless.

Officially, the project would remain secret until funding could be acquired and the technological development of the components moved far enough along to allow us to build working prototypes. The great fear of the developers at ARPA was that the Soviets, realizing what we were trying to construct, would maximize their effort to build one before we did, rendering our newly developed Atlas ICBM obsolete before it even got to the launching pad.

The Advanced Research Projects Agency was a highly secretive network of defense scientists, members of the industrial defense contractor R &D community, and university researchers operating either under the formula of a government grant or the tacit acknowledgment of the Defense Department that their research would come under government control at some point. ARPA was founded in 1958, in part, I believed, because up to then Army R &D had been a disorganized department barely able to manage the core research necessary to keep us technologically superior to our enemies. This created a gap in research that the Advanced Research Projects Agency was created to fill.

Working on military defense oriented research, many times far in advance of any concrete proposals for the development of a weapons system or a product, ARPA often acted as a forward skirmish line for the development of military weapons or simply facilitated the basic scholarship necessary for the more concrete items to be developed. However, too many times it was in conflict with the military because ARPA had its own separate agenda, especially after General Trudeau had reorganized the entire military R &D apparatus and refocused it so that

it ran like a machine.

In 1969, during the era of large main frame computers, under a contract to develop a network of networks linking universities, defense contractors, and the military, the ARPANET was born. And in the 1970s after the Advanced Research Projects Agency changed its name to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, it instituted a project to create an “internetting” of all the existing computers on its system, instituting the software protocols that would link networks running on different operating systems.

By 1974, the Transmitting Control Protocol/Internet Protocol was born and the ARPANET became the Internet. In the late 1980s, the European laboratory for Particle Physics launched a hypertext language, originally conceived of by Vannevar Bush, as a search mechanism on the Internet and by 1990 married it to a graphics user Interface that combined hypertext and graphics. The World Wide Web was born.

In 1958, when it was first developing the concepts behind the particle beam weapon, ARPA was only a year old. It was formed in 1957, when I was still at the White House, in response to the Soviet Union’s successful launch of Sputnik because the government realized that the United States needed an independent research organization to marshal the resources of the academic, scientific, and industrial communities. ARPA was formed to fund basic research, and even though it didn’t have a military orientation at the outset, it quickly became associated with military projects because that was where the government saw the greatest need for basic research into scientific and technical areas.

There was another reason for the formation of ARPA that, at least in theory, had a lot to do with the perceived threats facing the United States and the need for basic research to respond to them. ARPA, because it was a network deep inside the government and ultimately the Department of Defense, could engage in research ostensibly far afield from the immediate needs of the military services whose research and development organizations were part of the command structure. ARPA wasn’t. Although it reported to its own higherups in the Defense Department and at the White House, it was not part of a command structure and didn’t have to confine itself to the agendas of the heads of the various special military corps.

ARPA didn’t just come into existence out of nowhere. Its ancestor, the National Research Council, had been formed under President Wilson to organize and marshal scientific research for defense purposes and as a rival to the Naval Consulting Board, which was run by Thomas Edison, who had gone on record as saying that the country didn’t need a Naval Consulting Board at all. He invited scientists he called a bunch of “perfessers” down to his laboratory in New Jersey to walk around the “scrap heap” to see how real inventions were created.

University researchers and corporate heads of research and development were naturally appalled at what Edison thought about government sponsored research for the war effort and rallied around the NRC. If there were government grants to be handed out for basic defense research, the scientists who worked for corporations, who needed help in basic research no matter what its primary purpose was, were anxious to become associated with this new organization.

University researchers argued, through the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, that the National Research Council should be an “arsenal of science” to protect the United States through the application of its great brain trust in academia and industrial contractors

to issues of national defense through technology. President Wilson agreed, and the NRC was born. One of the first tasks given to the National Research Council was the development of a submarine defense. Aircraft had not yet made a decisive appearance on the battlefield at the outset of World War I, but the German U-boats were ravaging the Atlantic fleets.

The navy was desperately searching for a way to detect submarines, and although Nikola Tesla had submitted his plans for an energy beam detector that would send low frequency waves through the water to reflect off any hidden objects, the National Research Council thought the idea too esoteric and looked for a more conventional technology. Tesla's low energy wave didn't work well in water anyway, but years later Tesla's description of his invention was the basis for one of the most important devices to come out of World War II, "radar. "

The National Research Council had established a pattern of government support for basic research when it had an aspect to it that could be developed for military purposes. It was the first time that research scientists from the private sector, corporations, academicians, bureaucrats, and the military were brought together to solve mutual problems. Therefore, the Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, son of ARPA, were natural outgrowths of an ongoing government relationship.

The problem with ARPA was that it was political and had its own agenda. It was not uncommon for conflicts to arise between the Office of the Chief of Research and Development, General Trudeau, who was operating within the military command structure, and ARPA over money and the policy issues that arose between them. The staffs at ARPA and in the Pentagon crossed swords on a number of occasions, and more than once ARPA tried to lay the blame for its own shortcomings and mistakes on the military. During the early years of the Vietnam War, for example, ARPA tried to blame General Trudeau for mistakes in the deployment of Agent Orange.

But General Trudeau and R & D weren't responsible at all for Agent Orange. It was ARPA's baby from the start. But when the field reports started coming in on the casualties Agent Orange was causing among our own troops and ARPA said that it would testify before Congress that General Trudeau was responsible, I hit the ceiling. I let the ARPA staff people know that, protocol be damned, I would storm into the congressional committees on military and veterans affairs and raise the roof of the Capitol Building until everyone knew that ARPA was trying to duck responsibility for negligence in the deployment of a bad chemical. ARPA backed down, but the bad blood between us remained.

When the concept of an ARPA was first discussed at the White House, I saw the potential as well as the problem, but I also knew that a secret agenda driving everything was the policy of the UFO working group. ARPA was an asset to them because they could network through the university community and find out who had any information about UFOs that they weren't disclosing to the military, what technology was being developed that had any relation to the problem of UFOs or EBEs, and who in the academic or scientific community were coming up with theories about the existence or intentions of EBEs. In other words, in addition to being a conduit for research and research grants that fit certain government/military profiles, ARPA was another intelligence gathering agency, but dedicated to the academic and scientific communities. If information was out there, ARPA was going to find it and pay for its development.

Therefore, when the urgency of coming up with a technological challenge to the Soviet

space program arose in 1957, it was no surprise to anyone who understood the requirements of a space defense that it would be an organization like ARPA that would be given the mandate to develop that military response. And given the challenge posed by the Soviet satellite program, a particle beam weapon was the logical direction such a response would take.

The United States had to develop a weapon that theoretically could knock out the Soviet satellites or blind them so they couldn't take any surveillance photos. They had to gather resources in the academic research community to see whether a talent pool existed for the development of such a weapon. At the same time they didn't want to divert military research into exotic weapons while the military was still trying to get its own satellites into orbit.

But rather than putting the plan directly into the hands of the military R &D organizations, they followed a course probably initially laid out for them by the protocols of the UFO working group and went outside the formal military to an adhoc research organization that was not supposed to be involved in direct military research. When I was at the White House, I could see the hand of the CIA behind this, which immediately sent up a red flag for me because I knew that the government was only creating another budget and research grant bureaucracy the CIA would ultimately control.

It was also no surprise that the first type of weapon whose mission was directed against space vehicles and vehicles reentering Earth's atmosphere from space was a directed energy weapon, an accelerated particle beam, because even though it may sound like something out of a science fiction movie, it had a history that stretched back all the way to the early twentieth century. It's original creator was Nikola Tesla, some of whose papers were still in my own files when I took over the Foreign Technology desk in 1961.

Tesla was theorizing about directed energy beams, including particle beam weapons, even before the beginning of the twentieth century. His now famous "death ray" was essentially a version of a particle beam weapon that he believed would bring peace to the entire world because it could destroy entire cities anywhere in the world, instantly, and render squadrons of airplanes, naval fleets, and even entire armies completely useless. But even before his announcement of his death ray, Tesla was making news and a fortune through his experiments with the wireless transmission of electricity and his directed beam of electrons, which would strip the electrons of specimen material inside a light globe.

In the 1890s, Tesla was experimenting with a device that would become the twentieth-century cyclotron, another device that would become television, and he formulated the ideas for what today are the worldwide television and radio networks. Tesla, his background and his history, are important to any history of twentieth century science and weapons because his thinking was well advanced beyond that of any scientist of his day, including Thomas Edison, and the political implications of what Tesla discovered mixed in with the furious attempts to manage the government cover up about UFOs and their technological potential in the days and months after the Roswell crash.

Nikola Tesla, the son of a Serbian Orthodox minister, came to the United States from Paris in 1884 to meet and work for the acknowledged genius of his day, Thomas Edison. Although the two men would eventually clash like titans over the advantages of alternating current over direct current, Tesla did manage to get a job at the Edison offices and laboratory on what is now West Broadway, south of West Houston Street in New York City.

The two men were also very different in the way they approached their inventions. Edison was a tinkerer who would come up with an idea, experiment, build and rebuild, and experiment again until it worked. Often, as in the case of his incandescent bulb, he would go through thousands of experiments, discarding each one after it failed, until he finally succeeded.

This was Edison's example of initial inspiration and then lots of perspiration until the thing worked and he believed he'd gotten it right.

Tesla, on the other hand, laid the entire project out in his brain, visualizing it in its completeness, and then assembled it from the vision in his mind. It was unnerving to Edison, who often commented to his former assistant Charles Batchelor that Tesla's ability to build something from what amounted to a set of schematics in his own mind was unnatural. Tesla was also a fastidious, formally trained academician who loved to discuss theory while Edison was mostly a self taught workbench inventor who often worked and slept in the same clothes for days.

It is ironic that the rivalry between the two men who, by the time each of them died, had patented inventions upon which most of modern technological industry is built, spawned two great competing companies - General Electric and Westinghouse - whose own rivalries extend to the present day. The rivalry between Edison and Tesla helped define the nature of the electrical power industry in the United States, the electrical appliance and entertainment industries, and sustained itself from the 1890s through the 1930s when Edison finally died. Tesla himself died in New York in 1943.

Tesla was an acknowledged genius, a prodigy whose predictions and patents marked him to be a man way ahead of his time. Even before Czech playwright Karel Capek coined the word "robot" in his play R.U.R. and American science fiction writer Isaac Asimov invented the term "robotics" in his book of short stories I Robot, Nikola Tesla had created the first "automaton" or mechanical soldier and a robotically controlled model boat before the turn of the century. Yet Tesla, a tall, dark, brooding, but well-educated and cultured Serbian, often times turned out to be his own worst enemy.

He became a millionaire when he was only thirty-two but ran through enormous sums of money put up by some of the great industrialists and financiers of his day, including George Westinghouse, J. Pierpont Morgan, A. Stanford White, and John Jacob Astor, only to die destitute and penniless in his room at the New Yorker Hotel. This was the man, however, whose ideas the scientists at ARPA turned to when faced not only with the threat of the first Soviet Sputnik orbiting the earth, but the even worse threat that the EBEs, seeing and hearing the Russian satellite, would be convinced that if colonization of the Earth was their goal, it was the Russians who would help them accomplish it. What was Tesla's idea?

Consistently, throughout the 1890s, Tesla wrote and lectured about his theory of the wireless transmission of electrical current. Like Marconi's wireless radio, which revolutionized communication, Tesla's wireless electrical power supply would revolutionize the growth and development of entire cities. Not just as an extrapolation of wireless power but as a theory in its own right, Tesla reported that he had experimented with a beam of electrical energy, directed without wires, that could excite the atoms in a substance to the point where the substance, even though it could resist heat in conventional ovens, would break down. Such a beam weapon, Tesla said, would revolutionize warfare. In theory at least, it was a very similar

device, the laser cutting tool, that the Army retrieval team picked out of the scrub at the Roswell crash site.

One of the astounding aspects about the life and career of Nikola Tesla isn't just that he theorized about these projects, he actually experimented with them, many times succeeding in very intriguing ways, and then patented the important inventions that derived from his experiments. But his ideas were so radical for the time, so far ahead of anything his contemporaries were thinking, that they were dismissed as either the uncontrolled ravings of a mad scientist or so wildly impractical that they amounted to nothing.

Yet, when you review the patents in his name, his descriptions of the systems he designed, and actual results of the public experiments or exhibitions he conducted, you find that even the most lunatic sounding ideas like his turn of the century plans for a vertical takeoff and landing bomber actually looked as though they should work. In some cases, like his atom smasher, they worked better and more efficiently than the modern equivalents of these machines when they first appeared.

When I realized that at the turn of the century Tesla had actually demonstrated a model of a remotely piloted boat that could be controlled by radio from a distance and deliver torpedoes right into the heart of an enemy fleet, I was amazed that the navy hadn't jumped on the idea in advance of World War I and even more amazed that we hadn't ordered the design from Tesla in World War II when we knew the Germans were already experimenting with one. Yet today, we're spending hundreds of millions of dollars to develop remotely piloted vehicle similar in concept to the one Tesla had designed almost a hundred years ago at less than a thousandth of today's cost.

And in 1915, Tesla had written the U.S. War Department that in addition to his remotely piloted boat, they should urgently consider his remotely piloted "aerial machines devoid of sustaining planes [wings], ailerons, propellers, and other eternal attachments, which will be capable of immense speeds, and are very likely to furnish powerful arguments for peace in the near future. Such a machine, sustained and propelled entirely by reaction [thrust rocket engines], can be controlled either mechanically or by wireless energy [radio controlled]. "

Tesla's description of the remote controlled rocket powered guided missile, which was even more advanced than the German V2, is the forerunner of today's modern ICBMs whose targeting information can be relayed to them after they're in flight. As a tactical weapon, Tesla had described, over half a century earlier, the army's remotely piloted TOW antitank missile that destroyed Saddam's armored divisions in the Persian Gulf.

Tesla's experiments with particle beam generation and direction were well under way during the 1890s when he was invited to set up an experimental station that would prove that he could transmit electrical power using the earth's atmosphere as the medium instead of a heavy cable. If power could be so directed, Tesla's backers, who included industrialist George Westinghouse and financier J. P. Morgan, agreed, it would revolutionize the infant electrical power industry and make whoever controlled the source of power rich beyond anyone's imagination. Tesla believed he could control that power and, with about \$60,000 from his backers, traveled to Colorado Springs, not coincidentally today's home of the Air Force North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) and the United States Army's Space Command, to build and demonstrate his power transmission station.

Tesla described his experiments in an article he wrote for the thirtieth anniversary edition of the *Electrical World and Engineer* in 1904. He said,

“Not only was it practicable to send telegraphic messages any distances without wires, as I recognized long ago, but also able to impress upon the entire globe the faint modulations of the human voice, far more still, to transmit power, in unlimited amounts, to any terrestrial distance and almost without any loss. “

In Tesla’s vision, electrical transmission stations would circle the planet, storing and relaying power from station to station so as to provide electrical power to the entire planet without the use of above or below the ground power lines, feeder cables, and transmission lines. He also saw that a network of relay stations could receive and retransmit the world’s breaking news stories instantly around the globe to pocket receivers, “a cheap and simple device which might be carried in one’s pocket, “ which would record special messages sent to it.

Tesla had described a modern microwave cellular telephone and remote pager system. He also said that with relay stations like this, “ the entire Earth will be converted into a huge brain, as it were capable of response in every one of its parts, “ in other words, an Internet. During his time, Tesla truly made history by showing that energy could be directed as a beam without wires.

In 1899, it was rumored that Tesla was experimenting with a “death ray” in Colorado Springs. But Tesla never owned up to it, and in fact remained uncommunicative about any experiments he had conducted with rays even when English, German, Russian, and American scientists in the 1920s were applying for patents on the invention. In the 1930s, however, Tesla wrote in his monograph that he had made a new discovery that would make war obsolete because every nation would have the same power to destroy each other’s military weapons. It would require a large facility to generate the power, but such a facility would be able to stop entire armies and their machines as far away as two hundred miles in all directions.

“It will, “ he wrote, “provide a wall of power offering an insuperable obstacle against any effective aggression. “

But it was not at all a death “ray,” he said, because, as scientists working as recently as the 1970s realized, rays tend to diffuse over distance and something is necessary to maintain the intensity of the focus.

Rather, he said,

“My apparatus projects particles which may be relatively large or of microscopic dimensions, enabling us to convey to a small area at a great distance trillions of times more energy than is possible with rays of any kind. Many thousands of horse power can thus be transmitted by a stream thinner than a hair, so that nothing can resist. “

Although Tesla went on to describe how this beam will improve television transmission and the projection of images, he was really describing a directed, accelerated particle beam weapon that the folks at ARPA were struggling to develop over twenty-five years after Tesla first wrote about it and eleven years after the charred fragments of a directed-energy apparatus as well as the laser tool were discovered in the wreckage of the spacecraft at Roswell, written up by the engineers at the Air Materiel Command, and sequestered for years in my nut file. We were still trying to develop a workable beam when I was in the Pentagon in 1962 and only barely developed a working model in the Reagan administration as part of the Strategic Defense Initiative program.

But for Tesla, his world in the 1930s rushed toward war. Writing J. P. Morgan about his vision of an H. G. Wells nightmare of the destruction of the civilized world through aerial

bombardment, Tesla said that his particle beam weapon could shoot down airplanes in flight and so protect cities. He made proposals to the Russians to develop such a weapon because Stalin was afraid of an invasion from Japan. He also wrote to the British prime minister about the ability of his beam to protect London from attacks by the Germans. But no one thought his energy beam weapon practical, not even the Westinghouse Company, which, if they had advanced him the money to file for the patents they would probably have controlled, might have been able to develop the weapon before World War II had Tesla been able to complete it.

As it was, Tesla's death ray, his accelerated particle beam in which subatomic particles were excited by an energy field and directed toward a specific target at speeds close to the speed of light, was never developed during his lifetime. However, the mere hint that Tesla's theories might have found their way to the Germans or the Russians so concerned the federal government, especially the FBI, that when Tesla died in January 1943, the FBI immediately seized all his papers, schematics, writings, and designs and turned them over to the Office of Alien Property, where they were officially sealed until released to the Yugoslavian ambassador, who was a representative of Tesla's estate.

They remained in storage in Manhattan until the early 1950s, when they were returned to Yugoslavia. Yet even after their return, the Yugoslavian government believed that the FBI had rifled through Tesla's papers when they were in storage and had micro filmed them or photographed them. J. Edgar Hoover denied this, but photostatic copies of photographs of Tesla's papers were in the possession of the Army R & D's Foreign Technology desk when I took over in 1961. How did they get there?

Tesla's property was officially seized by the U.S. government two days after his death. Even though the FBI knew that Tesla had publicly said he'd perfected his death ray - there was no independent verification of this - no steps had been taken by the government to prevent him from transferring his plans for the death ray to a foreign power. Vice President Henry Wallace, however, told the FBI that the government had a critical interest in whatever papers Tesla had and instructed the FBI to seize them any way they could.

That was why the FBI directed the Office of Alien Property to enter Tesla's hotel room on January 9, 1943, and take possession. Tesla's other papers that were already in a storage warehouse were seized by the OAP as well.

Over the next couple of weeks in January 1943, after a flurry of diplomatic activity between the Yugoslavian embassy and J. Edgar Hoover's office, the FBI turned the entire matter over to the Office of Alien Property, which also wanted to get out from under the diplomatic tug of war between Belgrade and the State Department. The OAP, still reacting to the vice president's instructions that papers that could give aid to the enemy could not leave the country, contacted the chairman of what would become the Office of R & D, the National Defense Research Committee of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, Dr. John Trump. Dr. Trump examined the papers, determined that not much of them were useful, but decided to make photocopies of a number of papers Tesla wrote during the years preceding his death.

Trump also wrote abstracts of those papers, which included an undated monograph by Nikola Tesla entitled "New Art of Projecting Concentrated Non-Dispersive Energy through Natural Media, " Tesla's description of how he would generate and direct a high energy beam

of electrons at a target. Though dismissed by Trump as unworkable, the paper nevertheless described Tesla's latest thinking about a directed energy weapon, the accelerated particle beam device.

With the OAP's making photographs and abstracts of Tesla's papers, the entire Tesla property remained in storage until it was sent back to Belgrade in the 1950s. That should have put an end to the matter. However, in 1945, just after the war ended, the Air Technical Service Command at Wright Field outside of Dayton, Ohio, sought copies of the Tesla papers from the Office of Alien Property in Washington and sent a military courier to take possession of them and bring them back to Wright. Although there was some correspondence between the OAP and the Air Technical Service Command over the next two years regarding the disposition of the papers, at least one of Gen.

Nathan Twining's officers at the Air Materiel Command contacted the Office of Alien Property in November 1947 to tell them that the AMC at Wright Field had possession of the Tesla papers and would maintain possession of them at least until after January 1, 1948. Thereafter, the papers, including Tesla's own monograph on his accelerated particle beam weapon, seem to have completely disappeared - until they appeared in my OCRD files in 1961. But that was only one of the copies.

At least one other copy of Tesla's monograph had remained in the possession of the working group under General Twining and had made its way to the Advanced Research Projects Agency in Washington over the course of the next ten years. It was pulled out when the working group realized that upon the launch of Sputnik, the United States had absolutely no defense against war in space being initiated by the Russians, nor against the EBEs. We had one vital clue, however, about the only possible process that could interfere with the electromagnetic field drive we suspected the aliens were using: a directed particle energy beam weapon that could disrupt the electromagnetic wave formation around the spacecraft and penetrate the antigravity field. And we didn't even have to microwave the spacecraft by exciting the molecules in the composite material.

Because the accelerated particle weapon carried with it a powerful electromagnetic pulse, the effect of this EMP - the same effect that EMPs have on any electrical equipment - was to disrupt the antigravity gravity field by destroying the integrity of the electromagnetic wave of the spacecraft. In this way, without exploding the spacecraft, the particle beam could force it to crash by destroying its ability to counter gravity. In its role as a more conventional weapon against incoming warheads or enemy satellites, besides destroying any electronics within the weapon through its electromagnetic pulse, the particle beam excites the atoms in the target, causes them to disperse, and the target explodes. In this way the particle beam has a dual destructive capability.

Tesla understood that the particle beam weapon was just like a bolt of lightning, with very much the same destructive power only much more controlled. A lightning bolt is a massive beam of electrons. Scientists have theorized that you can achieve the same destructive force with a beam of protons. Still other scientists have argued that because electrons carry a negative charge and protons a positive charge, they are vulnerable to distortion within the earth's magnetic field because the beam will either be attracted to the opposite charge or repelled by the same charge. In addition, a beam of like particles will contain a natural dispersive force because the like charges in the beam will repel each other.

Entire hydrogen atoms are electrically neutral, however, and make a workable beam for any weapon designed to be used outside of the earth's atmosphere because neutral beams can be directed over the very long distances that the beam from a space weapon will have to travel. Also, a neutral beam doesn't require the energy overhead to control dispersion because within a neutral beam the particles are not charged and will not repel each other.

Research and experiments on prototype models of a particle beam weapon conducted after 1980 defined two basic types of weapons : those that would be used exclusively in space, or exo-atmospheric weapons, and those that would be deployed on Earth against targets like incoming missile warheads. These are called endo-atmospheric weapons. Each has enough different characteristics to make them separate weapons, but the similarities of a particle beam weapon are common to both types.

For example, as I began work on the development of basic research into particle beam weapons, my scientists told me that the weapon has to have six basic characteristics that allow it to kill the target.

- First, the beam must travel at such a high velocity - near the speed of light - that targets cannot evade it. Even UFOs travel slower than the speed of light so that in a chase, the particle beam will always win. At the same time, the faster the beam travels, the shorter the burst you have to have in order for it to disrupt the target.
- Second, the beam has to stay on the target long enough for it to do its damage. We estimated that if we were bringing down an incoming enemy warhead, a powerful beam would disrupt the warhead's ability to detonate almost immediately and destroy it within a few seconds. In space, where distances are greater, the beam would have to stay on the target for a longer period of time, but it, too, would disrupt the wave propagation of the spacecraft after a very short interval. Even if it didn't destroy the spacecraft, it would certainly render it incapable of carrying out any offensive mission.
- Third, you have to be able to aim the beam immediately for it to have any effectiveness, especially if you're targeting an incoming multiple reentry warhead vehicle such as the type deployed by the Russians and us. Unless you took out the bus, the vehicle that carries and aims the separate warheads while still in orbit, you'd have to fire the beam at each of the separate vehicles very quickly in succession after they've split up in orbit and begun their separate reentry trajectories. Thus, you'd have to aim and fire, aim and fire, aim and fire, all within a matter of seconds and making sure each target was destroyed.

A single fifty-kiloton detonation over New York City, for example, would paralyze the entire American financial industry and immediately change life as we know it for a considerable period of time. A multiple reentry vehicle launching four 60-kiloton warheads from orbit on separate trajectories for detonation over Boston, New York, Washington, and Miami would cripple the United States for the ensuing five to seven years. And the Russians wouldn't have to launch such a missile; it could easily come from China, North Korea, or even one of the Middle East fanatic terrorist countries like Libya with lots of oil money to spend. A particle beam weapon that could rapidly aim and fire to take out all four warheads either before or immediately upon reentry would effectively protect the United States and deter any country or terrorist group.

- Fourth, the beam must penetrate the surface of the target in order for it to cause any real damage to the mechanism inside the warhead. Therefore, once the beam lands on the

skin of the target, its excitation of the target's molecules must take place not just on the outer hull or skin but deep inside the vehicle's electronics. Therefore, even if it doesn't explode, it may either break apart into larger pieces or simply seize up and fall to earth as a dud.

- Fifth, the particle beam must also be able to kill through its electromagnetic pulse, which will render the target's electronics inoperable by either throwing off its navigation or destroying its detonation program and turning it into a dud. Used as a space weapon, the electromagnetic pulse will have a similar effect on enemy satellites, killing their control programs and rendering their computer guidance and orientation programs inoperable and blinding them completely. Upon enemy spaceships, the pulse would act as a purely defensive weapon that forces the ship to withdraw because its wave propagation device is rendered inoperable.

- And sixth, a particle beam, unlike a laser, can operate in any weather and under any atmospheric conditions. Lasers bounce off clouds and fog and are weakened by anything less than perfectly clear weather. Particle beams penetrate and can operate under all conditions. As the scientists back in the 1950s evaluated what they would have to do to develop a working prototype, they understood the need for a huge power generator to accelerate the particles necessary to generate the beam, some form of target painting capability not only to acquire the target quickly and aim the weapon but to reaim in case the first shot is a miss. After I left the Pentagon, work continued on the theory underlying this type of weapon but not much was done to assemble the very expensive supporting technologies such as the atomic particle accelerators, targeting computers, high energy lasers, and a way to make the whole thing portable.

Today, however, low energy versions of these directed energy weapons, partly the great-grandchildren of the Tesla beam and partly the descendant of the directed energy apparatus from the Roswell craft, are currently on the market for installation in police cars as a weapon against fleeing vehicles as a way to shut down a high speed chase before it even starts. The police officer in the pursuing vehicle aims his directed energy particle beam at the fleeing vehicle and turns it on. The electromagnetic pulse from the stream of electrons interferes with the target's ignition system in the engine, and the car, deprived of a flow of electrical power to fire the cylinders, rolls to a stop.

No more high speed chases on the 11:00 p.m. news but a more effective and safer way to catch fleeing suspects in their cars. This was a device developed by the military initially and, now deployed out of the Army's Space Command as a missile mounted kinetic energy beam for destroying enemy satellites, turned over to the law enforcement community. But its roots go back to the vision of Nikola Tesla and to what scientists believed to be actual pieces of directed energy technology that we pulled out of the crashed space vehicle at Roswell, reports about which turned up in the nut file carted into my office in the Pentagon in 1961 from the Pentagon basement.

For me the irony has always been in the confluence between the historic work and discoveries of Nikola Tesla and the technology we ascertained the extraterrestrials had developed from our evaluation of the Roswell wreckage. Tesla had experimented with wireless transmission of energy, and the extraterrestrials seemed to have employed a type of wireless transmission of energy for navigational and defensive purposes. Tesla wrote about the theories behind the distortion or manipulation of a gravitational field through the propagation of electromagnetic waves, and the extraterrestrials seemed to have employed just that kind of technology for a propulsion system.

And Tesla's descriptions of the theories behind the death ray he claimed to have perfected ultimately became the basis for the defensive weapons we deployed to challenge the hostile intrusions of our airspace by the extraterrestrials. What posed a threat to us at Roswell and what we eventually learned from Tesla's writings became two confluent streams of scientific theory that eventually became the basis of the Strategic Defense Initiative, an antiballistic missile and space vehicle weapon.

While scientists from the 1950s through the 1970s argued over the cost of such a weapon and whether an antiballistic missile weapon would destabilize the otherwise stable world of mutual nuclear deterrence, others who understood the real threat from outer space argued that there were enemies besides the Soviet Union who might someday acquire the technology to launch nuclear missiles against the United States. No one would dare say that we had to defend ourselves against flying saucers. In fact, it wasn't until the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 that the particle beam weapon received another pulse of life as part of the hotly debated but ultimately successful strategy of the Strategic Defense Initiative, or "Star Wars."

Amid the guffaws from some political quarters and the hand wringing from people who thought the thing simply cost too much money, President Reagan managed to prevail. Just the strategy of Star Wars itself and the limited deployment and testing of some of the components were enough to put the United States on a wartime footing with the EBEs and show the Soviets that we finally had a real nuclear deterrent.

The full story behind the SDI and the way it changed the Cold War and forced the extraterrestrials to change the strategies for this planet is a story that's never been told.

But as spectacular and fantastic as it may sound, the story behind the limited deployment of the SDI is the story of how humanity won its first victory against a more powerful and technologically superior enemy who discovered, to whatever version of shock it experiences, that there was real trouble down on its farm.

2.2.14 Planetary Defense from Roswell crash. (2023-02-01 23:16)

Toward the spring of 1962, General Trudeau told me of his intention to retire. He was not going to be the commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, he'd been told. The old man had charged up too many hills during his years in the army, rifle in hand, and fired back in the face of the enemy. Whatever he felt inside him, and General Trudeau was only human and nothing more, he never showed fear. He was unrelenting in the execution of his orders, unyielding when people opposed him, and he never ducked away from a fight.

Those who knew him either respected or feared him, but they never discounted him. A West Point graduate, he was born into a generation of U.S. military officers who had absolutely no doubts about what was right and what was wrong, and he marched through two wars and a series of commands, including the head of U.S. Army Intelligence, secure in the knowledge that he was on the right side.

These were great qualities in a wartime commander, but, as both General Trudeau and I

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found out, they could be the very things that make you vulnerable in a Cold War army of politicians angling for power as they fought an enemy who could not be seen and whose presence was only indirectly felt.

"There are no more Pork Chop Hills, Phil, " General Trudeau told me after he had learned that General Maxwell Taylor with the support of the army leadership had passed him over for the South Vietnam command. It meant that this was his last command and that he would retire as lieutenant general.

"And I'm afraid this is a war the army's going to fight by means of a political process instead of on the killing field. "

"We would win it if we were going there, General, " I said, fury welling up in my chest. "You and I know what we learned in Korea. "

Maybe the general could see my face getting flushed because he said, "No, we probably would have gotten court martialed because of what we learned in Korea. Just think what they would do to us if we were to win the war. "

Then he laughed in a way that told me he was looking forward to his retirement. "We would have made the Communists look bad. You know you can't do that, Phil. "

Even as we were speaking that afternoon toward the end of the summer, another Soviet trawler was heaving to at the entrance to the port of Havana, awaiting instructions for the off loading of its cargo while another one of our surveillance planes was circling high overhead snapping away its photos of the tarpaulins coming off the ICBMs laid out on the ship's afterdeck. I didn't know it yet, but a sequence of events was unfolding that would swirl me into one of the biggest controversies of my life just as the chilling truth about the attempts to colonize our planet and the harvesting of human beings and animals that were still going on made itself all too clear. A showdown was coming. It was just over the horizon. No one could see it, but a handful of us knew that something was stirring the waters just below the surface.

General Trudeau was saying his good-byes and started counting the days until he would change his uniform for civilian clothes and his office in the Pentagon for a corporate executive suite that befitted his experience as the commanding officer of some of our military's most important divisions. He had been at the helm of R & D for six years after having commanded Army Intelligence for three years before that.

Although the general didn't explicitly comment much on the incredible facts we had uncovered in the Roswell file because he considered it just part of his job, he did joke about it from time to time with his old friend Senator Strom Thurmond. More than once, I would take the back door into his inner office only to find Senator Thurmond and General Trudeau sitting on his couch and looking me up and down as I walked in.

"Art, " Senator Thurmond would drawl, barely hiding his Cheshire cat smile, "what spooky things you think old Phil's been into?"

"You been inside your junk file, Phil?" the general would ask.

"I would guess that you're able to tell the future, Phil, " Senator Thurmond said. "With what you're readin' you can predict any-thing. "

"Just acting like a good intelligence officer, Senator, " I said, being as correct and noncommittal as possible in the presence of my commanding officer. "My job is to read intelligence and make analyses. "

"Well, they ain't got nuthin' on you, Phil, " the senator said, and everybody in the room knew exactly what "they" meant even if we weren't allowed to talk about "them" in public.

As for me? I was preparing my files for General Beech, the incoming chief of research and development, knowing that my own retirement would come at the end of 1962. So I would prepare to go silent about Roswell while setting up a run of about six months to push as many

projects through as I could, including whatever was left in my nut file. Only I didn't call it a nut file or anything after General Trudeau left. My new boss and I had a tacit agreement not to broadcast anything about Roswell or the files.

As the summer of 1962 came to an end, ominous reports were circulating all through Washington concerning Soviet freighters making their way into Cuban waters. The traffic was intense, but there was no response from our intelligence people on what was happening. The CIA was completely mum, and the word making its way through the Pentagon was that we were getting slapped around by the Soviets and were going to sit still for it. Whatever it was, friends of mine in Army Intelligence were saying, the CIA was going to downplay it because the Kennedy administration didn't want a confrontation with the Soviet Union.

What was it? I kept asking, knowing all the while that the Soviets must have been playing around with something in Cuba and that's why there were so many ships. Were they massing troops there? Was it a series of military exercises? My answer came in a shocking series of photographs, unmistakable surveillance photographs, that were leaked to me by my friends in an office of Army Intelligence so deep inside the Pentagon and so secret that you weren't even allowed to take notes inside the room. I was asked, by officers who may still be alive and therefore shall go unnamed, to take a good look at the photographs they had developed from the spy planes over Cuba.

They said, "Memorize these, Colonel, because nobody can make any copies here. " I couldn't believe my eyes as I looked down at the glossies and then ran a magnifying glass over them just to make sure that I wasn't seeing things. Nope, there they were, Soviet intermediate range ballistic missiles of the latest vintage. These babies could take out Washington in just minutes, and yet there they were, sitting outside of hangars only a few miles from our marine base at Guantanamo Bay.

Had Gen. Curtis LeMay seen these photos, I had to ask myself? LeMay, a veteran of Korean bombing runs, should have been drooling over his desk at the prospect of bombing the hell out of Castro just for thinking he could even park IRBMs so close to U.S. airspace. Yet no reaction from Washington at all. The army had nothing to say, the air force had nothing to say, and my navy friends were simply unresponsive. Somebody was putting the lid on this, and I was getting deeply worried. So I called one of my friends, New York senator Kenneth Keating, and asked him what he knew.

"What do you mean missiles, Colonel Corso?" he asked. "What missiles, where?"

It was October 1962.

"In Cuba, Senator, " I said. "They're sitting in Cuba waiting to be deployed on launchers. Don't you know?"

The truth was Senator Keating did not, nor did Representative Mike Feighan, whom I also called. Both legislators knew better than to ask me where I found the photos or who gave them to me, but before they did or said anything, they wanted to know why I believed them to be authentic.

"They come from our best resources, " I told them. "I could pick out the missiles myself. I know what they look like. And it's not just a single photo but a series over weeks of tracking the delivery of them on the decks of Soviet freighters. They're unmistakable, very damning. "

Senator Keating asked whether I knew for sure that President Kennedy had been informed of the presence of the missiles, but I told him there was no way of knowing. Privately, I would have been shocked if intelligence sources had kept this information away from the President

because there were so many intelligence pathways to the Oval Office the President would have found out no matter who tried to keep the information away. So it was pretty clear to me that the administration was trying to keep the news from the American people so that neither the Russians nor the Cubans would be embarrassed and have their backs against the wall.

I also knew that by going to Senator Keating and Representative Feighan I was taking a huge risk. I was leaking information outside the military and executive chains of command to the legislative branch. But, that same April, I had already testified to Senator Dirksen's committee on the administration of the Internal Security Act that it was my belief - and I had proof to back it up - that our intelligence services, particularly the Board of Estimate, had been penetrated by the KGB and as a result we lost a war in Korea that we should have won.

The testimony was regarded as classified and was never released. But it made its way to Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who promised me, in a private interview at the Justice Department, that he would personally make sure his brother, the President, read it. Now here it was a little more than six months later and whatever intelligence information the President was getting about a serious Soviet threat to U.S. security, it was clear that unless somebody stopped them, the Russians were going to get away with it. Not on my watch.

President Kennedy had gone up to Hyannis Port, and the vice president, Lyndon Johnson, a friend of Ken Keating's from his days as Senate majority leader, was completely out of the decision-making loop within the White House. The rumors were that because of his association with Bobby Baker, there was going to be an investigation of the vice president and he might return as a member of the ticket in 1964. So Senator Keating didn't recommend going to Lyndon Johnson with this information. Besides, we had to get it right in front of the public so it couldn't be swept away, leaving the White House free to ignore it until it was too late to force the Soviets' hand. This was a gamble, of course, because the whole world could explode in our faces, but I knew that the only way to deal with the Russians was put their noses in it and teach them a lesson. Had we done that in Korea the way MacArthur wanted to, there probably wouldn't have been a Vietnam War.

One of my old friends in the Washington press corps was Paul Scott, the syndicated political columnist whose pieces appeared in the Boston Globe and the Washington Post. If we gave him the story, it would find its way into the Globe and the Post at the same time, right in the President's face and forcing him to act. I didn't enjoy this, but there was no other way.

So Senator Keating, Mike Feighan, and I coordinated strategy. I called Scott and told him I had seen some photos and had an interpretation he needed to hear. We met, not at the Pentagon, and I described to him the copies of the photos that I had seen and explained, in very general terms and without revealing anything classified about our surveillance apparatus, how they were taken, why they were authentic, and what they meant.

"You understand that when I saw these cylinders, " I said to him, drawing on a notepad the tiny barrels in the photos on the deck of a ship, "these are intermediate range ballistic missiles that can hit Washington, New York, or Boston within fifteen minutes after launch. We don't even detect these babies until they're just below orbit and coming down. That gives us maybe five minutes to get under our desks. But with nuclear warheads on them, anybody sitting anywhere near where they detonate is not going to be protected. "

"What's the point?" he asked. "Why would the Cubans want to get into a war with the United States?"

"It's not the Cubans, " I explained. "It's Soviet blackmail. They're not going to turn a bunch

of missiles over to Fidel Castro and put the trigger for a nuclear war in someone else's hand. The Soviets will have complete control, they'll have their own troops on the island, and they'll threaten to launch them if we or anybody tries to throw Castro out. "

"Why are you telling me this?" he asked.

"Because, " I said hoping for a sense of outrageous indignation in him that would motivate him to action, "the President already knows and won't do anything about it. "

I was right; the newspaperman was in shock. He half suspected that Kennedy wanted to avoid any and all confrontation until he made it to his second term, but this was outright capitulation, he said. "He can't get away with it. "

"Oh, yes, he can, " I warned him. "If we don't get the story out, it goes away. The President's sticking his head in the sand and hoping nobody pulls it out. You have to run this in the Globe right when he's in Massachusetts and force him to confront it. He flies back to Washington and it's in the Post. Then the Soviets know that he knows and it's all a complete mess. "

"But what if this sets off a war, " Scott said.

"Over Cuba? Listen, not even Khrushchev's own people are willing to sacrifice Moscow for Havana, " I told him. "It's a Russian gambit because the RGB told Khrushchev he could get away with it. He's punishing us for the U2 and the Bay of Pigs. We have to stand up to the Russians right here and now because if we don't the Cold War's over and we lost. It's all about territory, and if we don't defend our own hemisphere, we lose. If we make them back down, humiliate them, we win. "

The story ran in the Boston Globe and the Washington Post within days, forcing the President back to Washington to confront a crisis that would go down in history as one of the defining moments of the Kennedy administration. Robert Kennedy knew that the White House was getting faulty intelligence from the CIA, and John Kennedy knew that he had to strike a middle course between the CIA people who told him everything would be OK if he let Khrushchev off the hook and his own air force chief, Curtis LeMay, who wanted him to invade Cuba.

Very wisely, President Kennedy didn't invade Cuba. He also didn't back down, at least in public. Our blockade of Cuba turned the Russian navy around and humiliated Nikita Khrushchev, whose gambit had failed. President Kennedy traded off some obsolete missiles in Turkey to give Khrushchev something he could take back to the Kremlin. But we knew all along that when we deployed our Polaris submarines in the Mediterranean and North Seas, we'd have more firepower packed and ready to go against the Soviets than we ever had in Turkey, and the Soviets wouldn't even know it was there. Besides, we knew the Turks would never let us fire our missiles against the Russians from their soil. They were afraid that the Russians would use the missiles as an excuse to attack Turkey, but the Kremlin knew that, too, and knew we wanted an excuse to get out of Turkey graciously.

So it worked all the way around, and President Kennedy got the bragging rights to drawing a line right across the ocean where the Russian navy could not cross, firing a shot across their bows in the open ocean, and making them turn around in open water and sail back home. Before the whole world the Russians had backed down. President Kennedy was a hero.

But I had made some powerful new enemies and could see the end of my own career in the army like the distant sign on an empty expressway coming up at eighty miles an hour that reads "Freeway Ends. " I now devoted myself to packing away the Roswell files for those whom they would go to after me and writing my own notes for the work that I might find myself in after I left the army. Who could have realized that within months I'd be sitting in an office on Capitol Hill looking across the desk at one of my own successors who was there as the scientific adviser to the secretary of defense.

I may have stepped on the toes of some of the most powerful people in Washington, but it was still the good fight and I was, above all, still a soldier in the Cold War and still fighting the stealth war against the strategies of the EBEs, who were becoming more aggressive in their appearances over defense installations, cities, and our manned and unmanned space probes. Even the Russian intelligence services had begun to complain about the mysterious goings-on with their space probes. But they couldn't come right out and tell us the reasons why. We had to figure those out for ourselves.

If the Cold War sounded complex and chaotic in the early 1960s as Kennedy juggled the strategies of Truman and Eisenhower while recognizing that he couldn't trust his own intelligence services, imagine what it was like when you factored in the "other" cold war or, as some have called it, the "real" cold war against the extraterrestrials. It was becoming like the elephant in a room that everybody knows is there but keeps denying it. Its presence is so massive that you have to walk around it. Its trunk swings with such a force that you have to duck when it sweeps over your head. Watch out that the big elephant feet don't crush your toes when he plants them, and you don't want to step too close to the elephant's backside lest you get buried in what comes out.

In other words, dealing with the Soviets was just a big mess that we had to accommodate while we all sat down at the same dinner table. The Soviets and the Americans, pretending to break bread while not blowing up the world. Yet each of us looking for the advantage while we watched one another's hands the entire time. You watch your enemy's hands, he watches your hands, and whatever you can do with your feet you do. Meanwhile your enemy's doing the same thing.

The army's hands were tied by the cover-up, the refusal of the government to let us take on the alien threat with our full resources because we had to pussyfoot around the truth. But more than a few congressmen knew about the cover-up, were as concerned as we were about the intrusions of the EBEs, the human abductions, and the cattle mutilations, and supported the military's agenda for a program of speeded weapons development in space.

We were convinced that whoever the UFO extraterrestrials were, they were tampering with our planet, operating with impudence, and manipulating us constantly and secretly. But it was a secret that had our full compliance because we were unwilling to admit the truth and fight the war. Those of us in the military who knew what was happening also felt that we could be experiencing an invasion that was more of an infiltration. They were compromising our very systems of defense and government, I suggested, and then, by the time the conflict opened up, we would already be open and vulnerable. If the EBEs had been around long enough, I once suggested to General Trudeau, might they have seen the Trojan stowing that huge wooden horse the Greeks left for them right through the open gates of their city?

For his part, General Trudeau, in the months before he retired, made a number of appearances before Congress. He argued consistently that the army did have a real place in space and we had a capability in missile defense that he had proven at Los Alamos and at the guided-missile and Redstone command at Huntsville, Alabama. Moreover, the army had been able to use German scientists in the months immediately after the fighting in Europe had ended. It wasn't just a matter of who could get the biggest budget, General Trudeau testified. In fact, he offered in a briefing before the Congressional Committee on Science and Astronautics, if the space effort was to be completely taken away from the army, then it

should be given lock, stock, and barrel to the air force.

At least, he said, the air force was a military service and had officers and enlisted personnel who knew how to fight. But, at least in the early years, Congress and the President decided that NASA should control the space program. By the end of the 1960s, however, they had reversed that decision and realized that there was a serious military aspect to space exploration.

General Trudeau also had his allies among the major defense contractors we worked with. Not only scientists but members of the boards of directors suspected that the army had an urgency in developing weapons for use in space. Some of them even realized that we must have had a hidden agenda because each of the projects we proposed, like Horizon and the energy weapons, seemed de-signed for a war with enemies far more powerful and elusive than the Soviets.

When he would address industrial groups on matters of technical intelligence and applied engineering, General Trudeau received what I could only call a “knowing” response. He himself once wrote in his unpublished memoirs that when he was invited to give an address to one of the companies we worked with, the people who showed up were the decision makers.

He said:

I think on every occasion that I went out, the chairman of the board was there, the chief executive officer who was usually the president, and an impressive cross section of their senior corporate officers or directors. I might say even when I went to Sperry-Rand, no less a person than General MacArthur honored me by his presence at dinner, and he didn't turn out for many.

General Trudeau was the father of the ballistic missile and the person who, from the 1950s through the 1960s, made sure that our armed forces adapted the ballistic missile for our own use. His presence at Sperry-Rand with MacArthur, his boss in Korea, was all the more important because General MacArthur knew the truth about UFOs and commented that the army was girding itself to fight in space. And he didn't mean fighting the Russians in space, he meant the extraterrestrials.

But we were fighting so deeply immersed in the darkness of our own official denial that the fantastic nature of the truth, the ongoing effects of the truth, and the capitulation of the civilian intelligence services to some crazed blueprint they had for world order based upon an international government sometimes made us doubt our own senses. However, when you looked at what I called the secret history of the United States since 1947, you knew that the invisible elephant was walking through the room. A better analogy is the concept of the black hole.

Black holes, the ultra dense remains of stars that have collapsed upon themselves, swallow up light and gravity and, compressing them in like a galactic compactor into something that only subatomic particle physicists can describe and that can't actually be “seen. ” Only their effects can be determined from the way light and gravity seem to behave around them.

So you guess that a black hole might be present in a specific region of space when light and gravity around it bend almost like the way water circulates around the drain at the bottom of your sink. That's what the truth looked like in the region around our Cold War strategy and the development of any ultrahigh-tech or exotic weapons. It might have made sense in 1947, but by 1962, the refusal of the government to admit the war it was fighting was getting in the

way of actually fighting the war.

Since 1947 and the formation of the working group, each new layer of bureaucracy operating within the black hole of UFO strategy and intelligence gathering found itself more enmeshed in the confusion of what was true and what was false than the previous {layer. Like legions of blind soldiers, they bumped into one another in the night, upset one another's plans, and thought that friends were foes and vice versa. In the absence of a clear policy that could be maintained from generation to generation, the strategy for dealing with the EBEs became tangled up in its own web.

After December 1947 when Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, the air force chief of staff, directed the air force to evaluate and track UFO sightings - this in response to the working group - Project "Sign" began at the Air Technical Intelligence Center. Sign was so critical that even J. Edgar Hoover in 1947 issued Bureau Bulletin 59 ordering that all future reports of UFOs should not be investigated by FBI agents but sent, instead, to the air force.

Although officially not looking for UFOs, the air force Project Sign examined 243 sightings and submitted its report in February *1949. But at the same time Sign was doing its evaluation, the Air Technical Intelligence Center issued its own document called an "Estimate of the Situation." Basically, but naively, the document came to the conclusion that we were dealing with extraterrestrial interlopers who were observing us from UFOs.

But General Vandenberg, in the words of one of the officers I later ran into at the Pentagon, "had a cow, and not a mutilated one. "

"Colonel, " this officer said, "steam was coming out of the old man's ears he was so furious. Just be glad you weren't there. "

So I asked this officer why General Vandenberg was so steamed. After all, he ordered the report in the first place. Why didn't he just agree with General Twining and Admiral Hillenkoetter to ask the President to begin releasing the information?

"Are you crazy?" this officer said. The year was 1956 and I had been sent over from the White House for a briefing at the Pentagon.

"Don't you remember what happened when that Orson Welles 'War of the Worlds' broadcast was on the radio? We had near riots in the cities because they thought that thing was real. Can you imagine what would happen if it really happened? If our own government said that flying saucers had landed just like on the radio, only this time we caught one and they're still coming back? Think about it. Riots, looting, people going insane because they thought aliens were destroying the planet. "

He was right. And what was worse, the aliens were setting up for some sort of hostile act, whatever it was.

When General Vandenberg read the "Estimate of the Situation, " he fumed and ordered the whole report burned to ashes before anyone else could read it. It was one of the last official government assessments of the UFO situation ever to get even close to being distributed before the real cover-up clamped down.

But the grumblings about the absence of government policy concerning UFO reports continued. Project "Grudge" listed and evaluated 244 UFO sightings. Then in 1949 a memo that came out of the CIA's Office of Scientific Investigation was very apprehensive about unexplained sightings of flying objects. Then in 1952 another CIA memo came to light; from the head of the Office of Scientific Investigations Weapons and Equipment Division it also complained

about our lack of knowledge and police in the area of UFO sightings. Now even the CIA, it seemed, was at odds with itself at its various levels of bureaucracy over what to do about UFOs. Generals Twining. and Vandenberg had had enough. In 1952, the air force formally initiated Project Blue Book. At least if we weren't going to do anything about UFOs publicly, we had to have a way to salve the public's fear about UFO sightings. Blue Book was that salve.

Whatever the working group was supposed to be doing in 1952, it wasn't satisfying the National Security Council, which ordered the CIA to determine whether the existence of UFOs would create a danger for the United States. Of course, the CIA already knew, because two of its intelligence directors had been members of the working group, that UFOs were displaying hostile intentions not only to the United States but to the Soviets, the Italians, and the Scandinavians as well. All of NATO was trying to figure out a response to the UFO threat without triggering a reaction from the Soviets.

That was one of the reasons, thirty years later, President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev could come to a meeting of the minds about UFOs that ultimately brought an end to the need for a Cold War. On January 14, 1953, just before the inauguration of President Eisenhower, CIA officials and air force officers met at the Pentagon at the CIA's invitation to discuss the UFO situation and what our working group had learned up to that point. Officiated at first by Dr. H. P. Robertson, a CIA employee and the director of the Weapons Systems Evaluation Group in the office of the secretary of defense, the group also had working group member Dr. Lloyd Berkner, a physicist and one of the directors of the Brookhaven National Laboratories, as one of its members.

The Robertson Panel spent the next three days reviewing case histories of UFO sightings assembled for them by Air Force Intelligence and saw two films that contained footage of alleged flying saucers. The panel concluded there was no threat to the United States and recommended that the government should start debunking UFO sightings in general. This, the CIA reported as late as 1988, was the only official government response to UFO sightings.

Just over a year later, the White House agreed that it was necessary to have some sort of policy governing the release of UFO information to the press. In order to keep lower-level officers from releasing unauthorized information - and by unauthorized the National Security Council advising the President meant only that information cleared by the working group - Gen. Nathan Twining, now the airforce chief of staff, signed off on Air Force Regulation 200-2, which said that it was permissible to release reports to the media only when the object was identifiable, like swamp gas or a meteorite. But only the Air Technical Intelligence Center could determine which objects were identifiable and which weren't. In other words, only the ATIC could authorize the release of any information about UFOs, and they did so only when the objects were clearly identifiable as common phenomena and not flying saucers.

Throughout the 1950s, I witnessed the government become more and more secretive about UFOs even though privately I thought that they would get better information if they were more open about it. But I was also a military officer and understood the necessity of keeping information confidential until you understood what it was.

Besides, the Soviets were making great strides in the race to get into space and we didn't know if they were getting cooperation from the EBEs. There truly was a war on, and I followed orders on the White House staff even as I watched the officers in the cover-up begin to trip over their own feet time and again.

The darkness was closing in all around us.

In 1961, the air force began two secret projects that, in effect, had been in operation since 1947 but had not been committed to policy. "Moon Dust" had to do with the establishment of recovery teams to retrieve and recover crashed or grounded "foreign" space vehicles. But for all intents and purposes, as far as the public was concerned the air force was looking for Soviet satellites that had fallen out of the sky and landed on Earth. But in reality the air force was establishing a recovery of UFOs program just like the army had pulled the crashed UFO out of the New Mexico desert fourteen years earlier. Then in Project "Blue Fly," the air force authorized the immediate delivery of foreign crashed space vehicles and any other item of technical intelligence interest to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, for evaluation. It was a repeat of General Twining's retrieval of the Roswell space vehicle from the 509th to Wright Field in 1947.

In 1962, one of the assistants to the secretary of defense, Arthur Sylvester, told the press at a briefing that if the government deemed it necessary for reasons of national security, it would not even furnish information about UFOs to Congress, let alone the American public. Now I was at the Pentagon and I fully understood how the air force was moving to take control of the entire UFO situation. NASA had the mandate from the President to manage space exploration, but the military still had to defend against the UFO threat even though we were being hampered at every turn.

Air Force projects "Saint" and "Blue Gemini" years later were outgrowths of USAF 7795, a code number for the USAF's first antisatellite program, an aggressive operation designed to locate, track, and destroy enemy surveillance satellites or, and more importantly, orbiting UFOs. Using the technology we had developed at R & D, the air force, and then the army, was taking the initial steps to defend the U.S. missile system against Soviet attacks from space and defend the planet against UFO intrusions.

"Saint" was an orbital UFO inspector satellite, a version of a standard Agenda B satellite that the CIA had been using, that had an onboard TV camera and tracking and targeting radar system. Its job was surveillance. Find a potential enemy satellite or UFO lurking in orbit and lock onto it with a TV camera and with radar. Once the lock was in place, Blue Gemini, the "killer" satellite, would move in. One of the projects developed by Hughes Aircraft, a prime air defense contractor and satellite builder, Blue Gemini was the military version of NASA's manned Gemini capsule. Its mission, purely and simply, was to swoop in from a higher orbit and kill or disable an enemy satellite or a UFO.

If possible, the Blue Gemini would try to "capture" a UFO in orbit by rendering it immobile and waiting for a manned military astronaut mission to "space walk" over and retrieve whatever we could. Both of these weapons, under the cover of other missions, of course, were eventually deployed, and today they form one of the lines of defense in an antimissile and anti-UFO surveillance system.

Saint and Blue Gemini were important first steps in our war against the UFOs. The technology that came out of Army R & D in the 1960s, retrieved from the aliens themselves, led directly to our ability to put up such a defense against the aliens even though in the hours after the crash at Roswell our situation looked completely hopeless. Like many of the products that came out of R & D and were used for military purposes, they had consumer uses. And

today, if you look on the small dish digital direct broadcast television satellite antennas that are being marketed all across the country, you'll see Hughes's own brand. It's an example of how technology originally earmarked for the military winds up as the most basic and everyday consumer product.

On December 17, 1969, the secretary of the air force announced the termination of Project Blue Book. He said that Blue Book's review of more than thirteen thousand cases had yielded no information that there was a threat to national security in any way and that, in effect, since every sighting processed by Blue Book had been identified as something earthly and not extraterrestrial, there were, by definition, no such things as unidentified flying objects. Blue Book had done its job and now could report that our skies were safe. But Blue Book had been pure public relations from the start, and the military's evaluation of UFOs continued uninterrupted.

In 1975 and early 1976, air force nuclear weapons repositories at Loring AFB in Maine, the all-important and sensitive Strategic Air Command facility at Minot, North Dakota, and other facilities in Montana, Michigan, and even the Royal Canadian Air Force Base at Falcon bridge in Ontario had been seriously encroached upon by UFOs. These weren't just random sightings. UFOs actually conducted surveillance and scanning operations at the bases that resulted in security alerts and classified reports to Washington about the intrusions.

Then NASA finally got a project up and running to scan for radio transmissions from any advanced civilizations whose signals we could pick up. Called the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence and endorsed by the late Carl Sagan, SETI, which has since been discontinued, was not only a set of receivers around the world but a set of international protocols governing what would happen if contact was made with an extraterrestrial civilization.

For over fifty years, now, the war against UFOs has continued as we tried to defend ourselves against their intrusions. The Hughes hunter-killer satellites of the 1970s were our first steps in deploying a planetary defense system that held any real threat against the EBEs. When, late in the 1970s, we realized that a directed-energy weapon and high-energy laser were even more effective than exploding satellites, our defensive ability was enhanced even further.

We recognized that by applying both the technology we found at Roswell and Tesla's vision of a particle beam to our own antisatellite missiles and laser targeting equipment, we could achieve the rapid aim/rapid fire capability that these type of defenses demanded. But we were still playing cover-up games even though the Russians were now finally acknowledging that maybe cooperation between the superpowers was called for to meet a common threat.

In the 1980s, both President Reagan and Chairman Gorbachev recognized the need for cooperation against a common enemy. While neither officially owned up to the threat of EBEs and alien hostilities, both acknowledged that if the United States and the Soviet Union could lay aside their differences and participate in a shared policy to defend the space around the earth, then both superpowers would benefit.

For his part, President Reagan pushed hard for the rapid development and deployment of a space-based defense technology to defend the planet. Called the Strategic Defense Initiative, and derisively dubbed "Star Wars" by the press, the SDI was described in 1985 in President Reagan's own words as "a defensive shield that won't hurt people but will knock

down nuclear weapons before they can hurt people. “

Briefly, the Strategic Defense Initiative was described by the White House and the military as a space-based defense system to protect the United States from an all-out nuclear attack by the Soviet Union. It would include satellites that could detect a massive nuclear launch within seconds, orbiting lasers to destroy the first wave of missiles, laser-equipped submarines that could defend against the next round of attacks, and a ground-based missile system providing the last line of defense. In addition, the SDI also included what I thought was the best of its weapons, a missile-launched kinetic energy beam weapon that locked onto incoming warheads or low-orbiting space vehicles and knocked out their electronics with a particle beam.

The elegant aspect to the kinetic energy beam weapon was that you couldn't really defend against it. Lasers, even highenergy lasers, had their shortcomings in that once a laser beam bounced off a surface, the surrounding energy envelope protected the surface from subsequent pulses. You either knocked out your target right away or shielded it against subsequent hits. But with a particle-beam weapon, you penetrated the surface, just like microwaving a piece of meat, destroyed its electronics to render it useless, and then broke it apart or melted it from within.

Amidst the warnings that the SDI wouldn't work, was a giant unscientific gamble and a corporate giveaway, couldn't provide the massive shield against nuclear missiles, would violate the ABM treaty President Johnson had negotiated with the Russians, and was a giant waste of the taxpayers' money, guess what?

It worked!

We didn't have to shoot down thousands of Soviet incoming warheads, and the Soviets never really cared about the ABM treaty in the first place because they knew they weren't going to launch a first strike and neither would we. We both knew who the real targets of the SDI were, and it wasn't a bunch of ICBM warheads. It was the UFOs, alien spacecraft thinking themselves invulnerable and invisible as they soared around the edges of our atmosphere, swooping down at will to destroy our communications with EMP bursts, buzz our spacecraft, colonize our lunar surface, mutilate cattle in their own horrendous biological experiments, and even abduct human beings for their medical tests and hybridization of the species. And what was worse, we had to let them do it because we had no weapon to defend ourselves.

These creatures weren't benevolent alien beings who had come to enlighten human beings. They were genetically altered humanoid automatons, cloned biological entities, actually, who were harvesting biological specimens on Earth for their own experimentation. As long as we were incapable of defending ourselves, we had to allow them to intrude as they wished. And that was part of what the working group had to deal with. We had negotiated a kind of surrender with them as long as we couldn't fight them. They dictated the terms because they knew what we most feared was disclosure. Hide the truth and the truth becomes your enemy. Disclose the truth and it becomes your weapon. We hid the truth and the EBEs used it against us until 1974 when we had our first real shootdown of an alien craft over Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany.

They had tried to disrupt our space program for years - Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and even the Space Shuttle. They buzzed our capsules traveling through space, interfered with our

transmissions, and pulsed us with EMP bursts just like we used to do to the Soviet surface ships when we would hit them with a radar burst so massive it would send their earphone-wearing radar and sonar techs howling in pain down to the ship's dispensary. But when the EBEs did it to us, we had no response. That was before the SDI.

Once launched and tested, our space-based high-energy lasers, or HELs, acted like the lightning bolts on the nights of July 3 and 4, 1947, that so thoroughly disrupted the electromagnetic wave propagators in the spacecraft flying over Roswell that the pilots couldn't retain control of their own vehicle. We eventually realized that what happened then was that a natural version of an advanced particle-beam burst actually brought a UFO down even as it tried to escape. When we deployed our advanced particle-beam weapon and tested it in orbit for all to see, the EBEs knew and we knew they knew that we had our defense of the planet in place.

Gorbachev, believe it or not, was also pleased because President Reagan guaranteed that the United States would throw its defensive shield around the Soviet Union, too. Sure, the two leaders shook hands and embraced one another in public. What they had achieved together, cooperating when they were supposed to be fighting, was nothing short of miraculous. Whatever we were fighting over became minimally important in the face of a threat from creatures who were so superior to us in technology that we were their farm animals to be harvested as they pleased.

But when the United States and USSR agreed, in the early 1980s, not to fight each other over this territory or that territory, to cooperate so as to defeat the common foe, we were unbeatable. Now, as the Space Shuttle docks with the Mir and the astronauts and cosmonauts share a toast of vodka from their plastic squeeze tubes and look out into the darkest reaches of space, they know that there is an electronic shield around them. Now that the war is just about over and we defend our beachhead, the truth will ultimately be revealed.

The real truth behind a fifty-year history of a war that looked like the ultimate defeat for human kind amidst a Cold War that threatened us with nuclear annihilation can now finally be told because we prevailed. It was because in the dark hours just before dawn in July of 1947 the army, only dimly recognizing that we were on the edge of a potential cataclysmic event, pulled the crashed space vehicle out of the desert and harvested its parts just like the inhabitants of that vehicle wanted to harvest us. In those moments, even though we might have fallen over ourselves in the darkness of the next fifty years, we set in motion the processes that brought us to an initial resolution with a military power greater than us.

It helped us in our confrontation with the Russians and, if we don't lose our way, will help us manage the threats to come. When that truth of alien intervention in our planet's affairs and our ongoing contact with an alien culture is finally revealed, it won't be frightening even though it will be a shock.

The night closes in around you in the desert, exposing your deepest terrors of childhood bogeymen to the desolation of the landscape and the blackness of the sky. So, even inside your car you keep on chattering to keep the night away.

"And that's what I think about all of it, UFOs, the Cold War, all of it, " I told my companion in the car sitting next to me as we drove south through the New Mexican desert toward the town of Roswell. "I may be over eighty now, but that's what I think. "

The night was swallowing us up as our car twisted around the curves on the crowned road

surface, still warm and wet on a summer night from passing thunderstorms, heading toward lights we knew were over the horizon but still could not see.

"The Cold War, the missile crisis of 1962, the worldwide alert in 1973, all history now, don't you think?" I asked. "Maybe it was a good thing that the aliens forced us to defend the planet. At least it kept us in a Cold War even though we were using real bullets. "

"And what makes you think the Cold War is over, tovarisch?" my friend asked as he carefully took out a cigarette, lit it, and blew the smoke out the window. "American cigarettes, " he said. "Am I not the most bourgeois decadent person you've ever met? But what would the Amerikanskis have done without me?"

And I laughed to myself and counted the million stars across the desert sky as far as I could see. Cattle sleeping near the scrub and sand fences along the side of the lonely state route, a coyote now and then running through the beams of our headlights, and the sound of my friend's breath as he blew the column of smoke into the desert air.

It was a night just like this, lightning crackling off in the distance and a thunderclap rolling across the desert floor, a night just like this.

And what looked like a bright shooting star blazed very bright in an arc from south to north and disappeared over a rise as we continued toward Roswell into the darkness of the New Mexico night.

AFTERWORD

BACK IN THE 1950's, I REMEMBER WATCHING A TELEVISION SERIES ...called "I Led Three Lives" about the exploits of Herbert A. Philbrick, who described the "fantastic but true" story of his life as a member of a Communist Party cell and an undercover operative for the FBI. Years later, when I got to Army R &D, I remember thinking about how my own story was also "fantastic but true" and how what General Trudeau and I did helped to change the course of history.

Very few people knew that what was coming out of Foreign Technology during the early 1960s had some basis in a crash of a UFO that "officially" never took place. Lives were distorted, careers destroyed, children frightened into submission by Army Counterintelligence bogeymen, businessmen in Roswell threatened with financial ruination and even worse if anybody told the story of what happened. But they were all loyal Americans, and even though some might have had their doubts about hiding the truth, they went along with what the army wanted.

Many people have criticized the army and the government for maintaining the Roswell cover-up not only at the time but also through the years. For that, I need to say a word in defense of what the army did. It's easy to criticize if you weren't an adult back then or someone who didn't understand the politics that governed our thinking at that point in American history. We had not yet fully made the transition from a nation at war to a nation at peace.

And there was Harry Truman, still reeling from his sudden ascendancy to the presidency, toughened into steel by his decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan, and now faced with the monumental impact of a crash landing of a strange craft on American soil. Was it Soviet? Did it belong to a foreign power? Was it hostile? We simply didn't know and weren't about to say anything until we knew what it was.

Was it a flying saucer? The last time a public announcement of a landing by extraterres-

trials took place, even though it was entertainment, panic ensued. In the aftermath of the war and the fears surrounding the Cold War, we didn't want to risk another panic. So the military recommended and the White House agreed to clam up. Just like the secrecy surrounding the Manhattan Project, no word gets out. And for the next fifty years that policy, once put into place, governed the behavior of the U.S. government and the military about the existence of UFOs and the crash at Roswell.

You can also ask how the government was able to keep this secret for so long. Has there been any other cover-up so efficient and thorough that it went on, unbeknownst to succeeding presidents, year after year until it was finally stopped? In fact, there was just such a cover-up, started in the war, but continued as a matter of policy by Truman in 1947, code-named "Shamrock. "

Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, one of the original members of the UFO working group, convinced his boss President Truman in 1947 to continue working with International Telephone and Telegraph, Western Union, and RCA to make their international communications traffic available for inspection by U.S. military intelligence services. Even though its initial purpose was to monitor any communications of military significance, such as the transmission of military secrets, there were no controls on what was inspected and what was not. This program continued for the next twenty-eight years and kept secret from every president until it was terminated under the Ford administration in 1975.

Does Shamrock mean that UFOs exist? Of course not. But it does reveal the capability of the U.S. government to keep an ongoing operation secret from even the president of the United States, much like the UFO working group also under James Forrestal.

So what do I think about all of this, about what happened and what I did? I believe that because at the time I was so much in the routine of a military intelligence officer, I didn't really stop to think about the implications of UFOs and EBEs. I understood that we were fighting a Cold War with the Soviets and a skirmish war with extraterrestrials. I believed that their intentions were, and still are, hostile, and I believe that we took the steps necessary to develop the weapons that can blunt their threat. In fact, the U.S. military has better, more accurate, and more powerful weapons for killing UFOs than were deployed in the movie Independence Day.

We can knock these guys down tomorrow with high-energy lasers and directed particle-beam weapons that come right out of a Star Wars movie. And these aren't fiction, they're fact. If you want to know more, pay a visit to the U.S. Army Space Command Web site on the Internet. These missile-launched HELs are the pride of our planetary defense system and a direct result of President Reagan's courage in pushing for the Strategic Defense Initiative when every-one said it wouldn't work. And that SDI was a direct result of the work General Trudeau and I did at Army R & D in 1962.

Sometimes things just work the way they're supposed to. Some-times, once in a very long while, you get the chance to save your country, your planet, and even your species at the same time. And when that time comes, as Davy Crockett once said: Be sure you're right, then go ahead.

2.2.15 Federal Reserve Announces Latest Attempt to Fight Inflation (2023-02-01 23:21)

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday afternoon announced another interest rate hike to kick off 2023, the central bank's eighth consecutive hike that pushed the key interest rate another .25 percent higher a 4.75 percent cap — its highest level since fall 2007...and we all remember how the economy fared through 2008.

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) statement accompanying the decision acknowledged that inflation "remains elevated" before explaining that "ongoing increases" will be appropriate:

The Committee anticipates that ongoing increases in the target range will be appropriate in order to attain a stance of monetary policy that is sufficiently restrictive to return inflation to 2 percent over time. In determining the extent of future increases in the target range, the Committee will take into account the cumulative tightening of monetary policy, the lags with which monetary policy affects economic activity and inflation, and economic and financial developments.

In his press conference following the rate hike, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said he and the Fed feel the "hardship" brought by inflation, but said there was more work to be done and reiterated the FOMC's statement that "ongoing increases will be appropriate."

"We continue to anticipate that ongoing increases will be appropriate in order to attain a stance of monetary policy that is sufficiently restrictive to return inflation to 2 % over time," Fed Chair Powell says. <https://t.co/RJiXx60A4L> pic.twitter.com/aUTCTRRdLV
— TheStreet (@TheStreet) February 1, 2023

Powell has been trying to use interest rate hikes to choke the U.S. economy and force inflation down to the goal of just two percent. So far, inflation has not collapsed, although the economy showed some signs of slowing in the December 2022 consumer and producer inflation data released in January.

2.2.16 In Search of Lost Time review (2023-02-04 00:44)

Summary

Marcel Proust remembers his childhood in the family's country home in Combray: the drama of bedtime when his **mother** failed to give him the habitual goodnight kiss, the colorful garden flowers, the water lilies on the rivulet Vivonne and the scent of the hawthorn hedges on his summer strolls. These impressions rise from his subconscious upon tasting a madeleine cake dipped in tea, filling him with a divine kind of bliss. The experience reminds him of childhood Sundays when, before High Mass, his aunt **Léonie** in Combray would offer him cake dipped in lime blossom tea.

"No sooner had the warm liquid mixed with the crumbs touched my palate than a shiver ran through me and I stopped, intent upon the extraordinary thing that was happening to me. An exquisite pleasure had invaded my senses, something isolated, detached, with no suggestion of its origin."

It was during one of those summers that he also saw **Gilberte Swann** for the first time, the daughter of their family's friend **Charles Swann**. Through the pink hawthorn hedge, she looked him cheekily in the face, and he immediately fell in love with her.

The love story of Gilberte's parents takes place before Marcel's time in Paris. **Odette** is a second-rate actress and courtesan, and the refined, esteemed art connoisseur Swann is initially hardly interested in her. Yet in the salon of the coarse upstart **Mme. Verdurin**, his feelings change when he hears a sonata by the composer **Vinteuil**.

The music turns into the melody of Swann's and Odette's love. Yet their

happiness doesn't last long, because the more Swann desires Odette, the cooler and crueler she becomes. Swann works himself into mad fits of jealousy, with hints of Odette's love affairs with men and women fueling his fury. Only her prolonged absence cures the lovesick Swann. One morning he awakes from a nightmare and can hardly believe that he was once in love with her.

Volume 2: *In the Shadow of Young Girls in Flower*

Four years later, Swann marries Odette. Rumors abound that she forced him into the union by threatening to take away his beloved daughter Gilberte. The father looks at Marcel's socializing with Gilberte suspiciously. Indeed, the lad's initially rather childish love has changed. After visiting a public toilet on the Champs-Élysées, its musty smell arousing him, Marcel experiences an orgasm while wrestling with Gilberte. Soon after this episode, he falls gravely ill. Only after his friend invites him for tea – and he feels welcome in her family at last – does his feeling of not being good enough disappear. Gilberte, however, soon shows herself to be egotistical and moody. She seems to find Marcel increasingly annoying. In order to save the mental ideal of his love, he decides not to see her anymore.

Two years later, Marcel travels with his **grandmother** to the seaside town of Balbec. He befriends **Robert de Saint-Loup** – a young aristocrat who is currently doing his military service – and makes the acquaintance of the glamorous **Baron de Charlus**. Both are descended from the extremely distinguished aristocratic family of the **Guermites**. Marcel is delighted to have finally gotten access to this elusive class. One day he sees a group of young girls in sports attire. They appear haughty, cold and sleek to him, like proletarian Amazons from another planet. He later learns that they are the bourgeois daughters of wealthy businessmen. In the beginning, he is sometimes attracted to one, sometimes to another.

“As in a nursery plantation where the flowers mature at different seasons, I had seen them, in the form of old ladies, on this Balbec shore, those shriveled seed-pods, those flabby tubers, which my new friends would one day be. But what matter? For the moment it was their flowering time.”

But in the end, he falls in love with the dark-haired **Albertine**. Before her departure, she invites him to her hotel room. When he attempts to kiss her, she is terribly outraged and rejects him.

Volume 3: *The Guermantes Way*

A few years later, Marcel moves with his family into a new apartment next to the elegant Paris residence of the **Duke** and **Duchess de Guermantes**. He falls in love with the Duchess and stakes her out on his morning walks. In a desperate move, he visits her nephew, Saint-Loup, in the garrison town of Doncières, hoping that his friend would put in a word for him with his aunt – to no avail. Back in Paris, he goes to a reception at **Mme. de Villeparisis**’s salon. She, too, is related to the Guermantes family, but her salon is reputed to be second-rate. Marcel’s Jewish friend **Bloch** sparks several discussions about the Jewish officer **Alfred Dreyfus**, who faces accusations of high treason. Most attendees come out as anti-Semites.

Marcel’s grandmother suffers a stroke. After weeks of physical and mental decline, she dies an agonizing death. Several days later, Albertine happens to come by for a visit. She has transformed into a

more rounded, female shape. Now that he has lost interest in her, she apparently expects more from him. At the same time, the Duchess de Guermantes – now that he is no more in love with her either – invites him to her salon. Yet Marcel feels entirely let down by the experience. The highborn chatter idly, brimming with pride of place and a fossilized artistic taste. Even the Duchess's famed wit appears forced and works only at the expense of others.

Volume 4: *Sodom and Gomorrah*

From a hiding place, Marcel observes how the Baron de Charlus hits on the tailor, **Jupien**. It dawns on Marcel that the two men are gay, and he finally realizes why Charlus used to treat him in an exceedingly friendly manner at some times and in an aggressive and offensive way at other times.

"Don't protest that you know about styles,' he cried in a shrill scream of rage, 'you don't even know what you are sitting on. You offer your hindquarters a Directory fireside chair as a Louis XIV bergère. One of these days you'll be mistaking Mme. de Villeparisis's lap for the lavatory, and goodness knows what you'll do in it.'" (Charlus to Marcel)

Marcel feels both revulsion and pity. He compares the fate of homosexuals with that of Jews: No matter how hard they try to deny their nature, sooner or later, vice catches up with the former and background with the latter. Later he attends a reception at the home of the **Prince de Guermantes**, the Duke's cousin. Here, too, he feels surrounded by anti-Semitism,

spite and sophisticated boredom. Moreover, he now tends to perceive signs of homosexual inclinations in most people.

In spring, Marcel sets out to Balbec, a place that painfully reminds him of his grandmother. To distract himself, he meets Albertine. In the casino, he sees her dancing intimately with her girlfriend **Andrée**.

A doctor and friend of Marcel suspects that they are lesbians.

Albertine denies the claim indignantly, yet Marcel continues to distrust her. He hardly leaves her alone and is rough and rude to her, until he's finally grown tired of her altogether. However, when she happens to mention a friendship to two women that he knows for certain to be lesbians, he changes back. He is now absolutely determined to liberate her of the presumed vice. The two of them depart immediately for Paris.

Volume 5: *The Prisoner*

Marcel has been trying to write for years. To his parents' great chagrin, he hasn't brought anything substantial to paper. He moves into his family's apartment with Albertine, so that he can better keep watch on her, allowing her to leave the house only accompanied by Andrée. The only time he's truly happy with Albertine is when she lies sleeping next to him, because that's when she truly and utterly belongs to him. Most of the time, though, he works himself up into a jealous frenzy.

Albertine, for her part, gets increasingly caught up in a web of lies, denying the acquaintance of certain women only to admit to them when questioned point-blank a few days later. When she expresses the desire to attend a musical evening at the Verdurins, Marcel prevents her from attending it and ends up going himself. The Baron de Charlus tells him that he expected the composer Vinteuil's lesbian daughter and her lover

to come, but they haven't shown up. Now Marcel believes to have found out Albertine and takes her to task. Her justifications are getting increasingly abstruse, but also her anger at the pointless cat-and-mouse game seems to be mounting. Marcel threatens to break up with her, only to reconcile shortly thereafter. When he finally resolves to separate amicably and travel to Venice on his own, Albertine has already left the house early in the morning, with her bags packed.

Volume 6: *The Fugitive*

Marcel is frozen. He frets about the reasons for Albertine's flight and tries to get her back with the help of crafty stratagems – but to no avail. Finally, in a telegram, he begs her to return. Yet as soon as he's sent it off, he receives one from Albertine's aunt, informing him that the girl has died in a riding accident. At first, he is numb with grief. But soon the jealous suspicion comes back. He asks a friend to snoop around his late girlfriend's past and subsequently learns that Albertine supposedly had tender orgies in public baths and at river banks with older ladies and young laundresses. But is that information reliable? He will never know with absolute certainty.

Just as Marcel starts to forget Albertine, Andrée confides more secrets to him: She, too, had a lesbian relationship with Albertine, but his girlfriend didn't leave him for other women. On the contrary, she simply realized that Marcel wouldn't marry her and thus redeem her from her sinful life. Later Marcel sets out to Venice with his mother. As the beauty of the city and its women intoxicates him, he becomes aware of his complete indifference toward Albertine. Upon his return to Paris, he realizes that none of his youthful convictions holds true, anymore: The once romantic Saint-Loup marries the wealthy Gilberte for want of money and turns out to be a closet homosexual. And the same Gilberte confesses to Marcel that she fell in love with him at their

first encounter across the hawthorn hedge in Combray. The expression that he perceived as scornful was meant, in fact, as an invitation for a secret rendezvous.

Volume 7: *Time Regained*

Marcel spends several years in a sanatorium before returning to Paris at the beginning of 1916. The war has altered the city and its inhabitants beyond recognition. Mme. Verdurin, once reviled in high society, now keeps the plushest salon in Paris. Saint-Loup has gone to fight at the front, while Gilberte is holding the fort at their country house in Combray. She writes Marcel a letter full of despair, lamenting that the beloved landscapes of their childhood have been destroyed. One night, walking through Paris during a blackout, Marcel gives in to his curiosity and steps into an evidently popular hotel. From one room he hears the crack of a whip, followed by a man's groaning and begging for mercy. Marcel peeks through a hidden window. Horror-stricken, he sees the Baron de Charlus, fettered to the bed and covered with blood. His torturer is just leaving the room, when Jupien enters. The tailor manages the male brothel for the baron, who complains to Jupien about the harmlessness of his tormentor. That same night Marcel survives a terrible air raid, and a few days later he learns that Saint-Loup has died in combat.

Once again, many years in a sanatorium pass by with no apparent effect on Marcel's state of health. Back in Paris, he goes to a matinee at the house of the Prince de Guermantes. In the courtyard, he happens to step on an uneven paving stone, which triggers the same feeling of happiness that he experienced when tasting the madeleine many years before: The stone reminds him of the floor tiles in the Baptistery of San Marco in Venice. Marcel realizes that these involuntary, sensual memories have one thing in common: The past merges with the present, and for a brief moment, he gains a vantage point outside time, allowing him to see and relish the true nature of things. He understands that, as a writer, he has to decipher the symbols from deep within himself while searching for the truth, show the connection between things and make

them accessible to others through his special style. Finally Marcel resolves to begin writing his novel.

“But instead of working I had lived a life of idleness, of pleasures and distractions, of ill health and cosseting and eccentricities, and I was embarking upon my labor of construction almost at the point of death, without knowing anything of my trade.”

Entering the party, he feels like he’s at a grotesque masquerade ball: Almost all his acquaintances have aged beyond recognition. They are afflicted with geriatric trembling, and their faces look like plaster masks. Mme. Verdurin has married the Prince de Guermantes, whom the war financially ruined, and is now commanding high society as the Princess de Guermantes. The Duke de Guermantes, meanwhile, has taken the well-preserved Odette as his lover. Whether social position or political beliefs, nothing is what it used to be. Marcel senses that he doesn’t have much time left himself. From now on, he has but one goal: to give the people who he remembers in his writing their place in time.

About the Text

Structure and Style

The seven volumes of Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* make up a literary symphony: The first volume starts out with is the overture, anticipating – just like its musical equivalent – the central themes. In his many sleepless nights, the first-person narrator remembers his childhood in the country, the important locations and individuals in his life and, with the world-famous madeleine cake episode, introduces the literary motif of involuntary memory triggered by a sensory cue. He then varies and recomposes the themes and motifs again and again, mirroring them in different situations and life stories. The last volume culminates in a furious finale: At the “old people’s ball” Proust has his characters perform their last dance. All through the work, he composes vivid word paintings: The landscape descriptions and beach scenes with the young girls resemble the works of the impressionistic masters Boudin, Manet and Monet put into words, whereas portraits of Albertine and the aged society in the closing scene are reminiscent of Cubist and Futurist artists of his time. According to his contemporaries, the asthmatic Proust wrote exactly how he spoke, using excessive, nested and breathless phrases. It isn’t without reason that he is reputed to have produced some of the longest sentences in French literature.

Interpretation

- **Making art through active memory** is the main focus of *In Search of Lost Time*. Proust

distinguished between deliberate and involuntary memory. While the former often fails to deliver, the latter arrives spontaneously, triggered by unexpected sensations.

- A central motif is **the impossibility of objective thought** resulting in the futile nature of human relationships. The only thing Marcel knows for sure, after separating from Albertine, is that he didn't really know anything about her. In his imagination, she has fragmented into countless, contradictory versions of herself.
- Proust made **homosexuality** his main theme, drawing on his own biography as a closeted homosexual. Moreover, he repeatedly draws parallels between homosexuality and Jewishness. Proust's mother was Jewish. He considered that part of his identity, just as he did his sexuality, to be some kind of hereditary disease, which he would do best to hide from society. Proust's mother was Jewish, a heritage which – like his sexuality – he viewed as some kind of hereditary disease that he would do best to hide from society.
- The novel is **a masterly play between autobiography and fiction**. Many characters resemble Proust's real-life contemporaries, and several of the narrated stories are based on actual events. Charlus, Bloch, Swann, and the first-person narrator combine traces of both Proust himself and his acquaintances.
- As the author, Proust frames his aesthetic philosophy: Art, for him, is **to look below the surface of things**, discover what they have in common, and combine them through metaphors and beautiful style. He finds the call for realistic or even politically motivated art utterly absurd.
- Full of both **nostalgia and irony**, he sings a swan song to the end of the Belle Époque. A connoisseur of the salon scene of his time – and with a mix of satire and regret – he targets the narrow-mindedness of the upper-middle classes while describing the inevitable decline of the aristocracy before World War I. with a mix of satire and regret.

Historical Background

From Belle Époque to the Modern Age

In Search of Lost Time is mainly set in Belle Époque France, a time of relative peace and prosperity between the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1871 and the outbreak of World War I in 1914. The French Third Republic offered perfect conditions for the rising upper-middle classes to benefit from the Second Industrial Revolution, also known as the Technological Revolution: Automobiles pushed carriages off the streets; airplanes and telephones melted away distances; and for the 1889 world's fair in Paris, the Eiffel Tower was built to the dizzying height of 324 meters. In the Paris salons, the privileged classes – endowed with plenty of wealth and leisure time – celebrated life, beauty and themselves.

Starting in 1890, the notion of the *Fin de Siècle* – a mood that cycled between excessive euphoria about the future and doomsday desperation – gained traction among the artistic circles. Rapid changes in science and society brought more freedoms, while existing value systems were progressively eroding. Many artists rebelled against the pressures and conventions of their time with a frivolous lifestyle, excessive drug abuse and a more open embrace of sexuality. The typical *Fin de Siècle* dandy devoted his life to cultivating his style and himself. Marcel Proust is considered both a great chronicler of this epoch and trailblazer of modern literature.

Development

Proust wrote *In Search of Lost Time* between 1909 and 1922.

In January 1909, he claimed to have had the experience that evolved into the famous “Proustian moment” – the taste of a madeleine sponge cake dipped into tea. And as early as August of that same year he wrote to his friend **Geneviève Straus**: “You will read me – more

of me than you will want – for I’ve just begun – and finished – a whole long book!” In retrospect, this was a far too optimistic assessment. While a first draft of the final scene was already in evidence at the time, it was only the beginning of an unending writing process. Originally, he had planned the novel in two volumes. Yet when the first volume went to press in 1913, its sprawling nature was quite evident. The second was already typeset when World War I broke out in 1914 and Proust’s publisher put the project on hold. At times, the author’s personal life rewrote the novel, too: In May 1914, Proust’s secretary, **Alfred Agostinelli**, one of several models for the character of Albertine, died in a plane crash. Proust thereupon developed an entirely new narrative, dealing with Albertine’s imprisonment, escape and death. Over the intervening years, he continued to change the drafts, cutting passages in one place and pasting them in another. Even the clean copy of all the unpublished volumes, which emerged between 1917 and 1918, was anything but final. Proust continued writing until his death in 1922. The many inconsistencies, repetitions, ruptures and incomplete sentences are a testimony to his manic-creative method.

Reviews and Legacy

The seven volumes of the novel were published in Paris between 1913 and 1927. Readers largely found *Swann’s Way* incomprehensible. Nevertheless, in 1919, Proust won the most important literary award in France: the Prix Goncourt, for *In the Shadow of Young Girls in Flower*.

His contemporaries remained divided, however. Some members of the left-wing avant-garde criticized the author as an idle snob who produced socially irrelevant, ephemeral fiction for like-minded aesthetes.

Right-wing conservatives held his candid portrayal of homosexuality against him. They saw in his novel the incarnation of degenerate literature, intending to ban it along with the works of **Sigmund Freud**, **Fyodor Dostoevsky** and **André Gide**.

Today, many consider *In Search of Lost Time* to be the most important literary work of the 20th century. In 1972, with the infamous Monty Python sketch about the “The All-England Summarize Proust Competition,” the novel finally entered pop culture: In the competition, participants must summarize the content of all seven volumes in 15 seconds, with a “Proustometer” measuring their progress. In 1984, **Volker Schlöndorff** filmed the first volume under the title *Swann in Love*. And the turn of the millennium saw a veritable Proust revival: In 1997, **Alain de Botton** wrote the tongue-in-cheek self-help book *How Proust Can Change Your Life*, and between 1988 and 2013 **Stéphane Heuet** published a graphic novel adaptation of the masterpiece. In 1999, **Raúl Ruiz** filmed *Time Regained*, in 2000 **Chantal Akerman** put *The Captive* on screen and in 2011 **Nina Companéez** made a two-part French TV movie covering all seven volumes.

2.2.17 New Info on Chinese Spy Balloon From NORAD Commander Is Jaw-Dropping (2023-02-07 00:43)

At this point, everything the Biden team says about the Chinese spy balloon just seems to make the problem worse.

One of the big questions that people have had is why the balloon wasn’t shot down earlier, for example, over the Aleutian Islands, near Alaska. Or over any of the less populated areas of Alaska, Canada, or Montana that it went over?

Now, they’re out with more comments and they’re not helping themselves. They had earlier claimed they didn’t have a “water shot.” That answer has now “evolved” further.

According to the Department of Defense, the U.S. did not have time to shoot down the Chinese spy balloon right after it crossed into Alaskan waters.

The balloon “did not present a physical threat” to the US and Canada, said Gen. Glen VanHerck, Commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). “I could not take immediate action because it was not demonstrating ... hostile intent.”

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Gen. VanHerck: “It was my assessment that this balloon did not present a physical military threat to North America. This is under my NORAD hat, and therefore I could not take immediate action because it was not demonstrating hostile act or hostile intent.”

— Logan Ratick (@Logan_Ratick) February 6, 2023

Um, what? You let a spy balloon from a hostile foreign power enter our airspace with God knows what intention because it wasn’t demonstrating “a hostile intent”? Exactly how do you judge that? Wait until it gets to where it wants to go and drops something? My colleague

Bob Hoge outlined any number of things that such a balloon could be involved in, including an EMP attack. Do they have to be holding up a sign that says: "We come to attack you/spy on you"? Come on, man! This seems to be an insane military reaction. Not to mention a terrible signal to our enemies that we are risk-averse and won't do the basic things we need to do to protect our country.

That answer also evolved — did you not take the shot because you didn't have a shot or you didn't take it because it wasn't demonstrating hostile intent? Which was it here?

But it gets worse.

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Wow: Northcom chief Gen. VanHerck says the balloon was up to 200 ft tall, with a payload the size of a jetliner. It weighed "in excess of a couple thousand lbs" and potentially carried explosives "to detonate and destroy the balloon."

— Lara Seligman (@laraseligman) February 6, 2023

"Northcom chief Gen. VanHerck says the balloon was up to 200 ft tall, with a payload the size of a jetliner," Politico reporter Lara Seligman said. "It weighed 'in excess of a couple thousand lbs' and potentially carried explosives 'to detonate and destroy the balloon.'"

So, VanHerck is saying it was that big with potential explosives, but they didn't see any "hostile intent" or potential issue with letting it float over the country for more than a week? Am I losing my mind here, or is this explanation crazy? I'm wondering if the real answer here — and why nothing makes sense — is that they did tell Joe Biden right away and he's the guy who was talking about "no hostile intent" and said don't take the shot.

VanHerck said one other important piece of information: He said that U.S. intel agencies "pieced together" through additional means of intel collection that there had been three prior balloons that had been undetected. I wrote about the problems with what the Biden team has said so far on this and how the narrative keeps changing.

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NEW: US was able to collect intelligence on Chinese spy balloon's ability to transmit signals as it passed through the United States: DoD

NORTHCOM chief Gen. Van Herck said US intel agencies pieced together that China had sent 3 previous balloons into US that were not detected.

— Jack Detsch (@JackDetsch) February 6, 2023

Once again this raises big questions: Is it three or four? What about the one four months ago over Hawaii that has been reported? Supposedly there were three under Trump and one under

Biden that were undetected. And how could they go undetected given the powerful ability that we supposedly have to detect things? Is he saying that we can't detect a slow-moving balloon of such size? Yes, that's what he's saying.

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He acknowledged that the United States wasn't aware at the time of several previous surveillance balloons that visited in recent years and were reported in the media over the last few days.

But in this case, they saw it coming north of the Aleutian Islands, he said.

— Dan Lamothe (@DanLamothe) February 6, 2023

"I will tell you we did not detect those threats and that's a domain awareness gap we have to figure out," Gen. VanHerck said. They became aware due to additional means of intel collection.

What did the incursions involve and was there any spying? How is the intel community reaching this conclusion? Did they drop this to cover Joe Biden's posterior because of the backlash? This shows a huge hole in the defense of our country if this is true. And they just announced it to our enemies.

2.2.18 The Ballooning Chinese Racial Hubris (2023-02-07 00:46)

That Biden made a mess of the Chinese spy balloon matter is not news. Indeed, if it weren't so serious, the whole incident would really be kind of humorous, at least the Chinese reaction to it. "How dare you shoot down our balloon while we are spying on you and stealing stuff from you! Who do you think you are?" The CCP claims the right to "take further actions" (send more balloons?), and insists that America's response was an "obvious overreaction and a serious violation of international practice." For how long "international practice" has allowed one country to fly spy balloons over the sovereign air space of another country the Chinese don't say. But the CCP doesn't care one whit about any "international" protocols. Further, "China will resolutely uphold the relevant company's legitimate rights and interests"—its legitimate right to send spy balloons over another country. Like I said, if this wasn't so serious, it would appear utter buffoonery.

But this is China. Nothing China does is buffoonery. It all has a purpose—the ultimate domination, by China, of the entire world. Well, it's in the Communist Manifesto, and it's also in the Chinese racist psyche.

Unless you've lived in China and studied that country for decades (as I did and have), these people are hard to understand. But, to me, what they did, and are now saying, is perfectly comprehensible. A lot of it is just bully talk now, because China, currently, is limited in what it can practically do. But there is rationale behind their bombast, and it comes from

the Chinese innate belief in their own racial superiority. They truly believe in it.

The idea of racism is not just that you treat people differently on the basis of their skin color, but that you believe that your race is genuinely superior to others. Democrats demand that people be handled differently because of race; there is an obvious implication of inferiority in that, i.e., some races need “special treatment” to be “equal” to others. But, to Democrats, there is also a strong element of politics involved. They need black votes or they won’t win anything. So, they buy votes (of minorities and women) by classifying them differently, giving them special favors, and screaming “racism” or “sexism” when anyone disagrees with them. It is coalition-building to Democrats so that they can gain and hold power. They have been very good at it for a long time. Nobody was better than Franklin Roosevelt at doing it, which is why he was elected President four times even though most of his policies were utter failures.

But the Chinese truly believe they are superior to other peoples and races, that, because of that god-like superiority, they have a right to rule and dominate, and thus how dare America protest when China tries to steal vital data from us. This is hubris to the nth degree. My next point is incredibly important, folks, so please read carefully: the Chinese think of EVERYBODY else in the world the way American Leftist elites think of you. The Chinese don’t like anybody, and especially Americans. And Leftist Americans are just as inferior to them as every other peoples on earth, useful idiots, who genuinely are too idiotic to see what China really is. You and I are peasant scum to the American Left. EVERYBODY (including American Leftists) is peasant scum to the Chinese elites. That point cannot be overemphasized.

So, when American Leftist Elite Joe Biden, who thinks of you as a deplorable nitwit, has the audacity to shoot down a Chinese spy balloon over the United States, the Chinese are incensed and demand retribution. They are superior to you, so they have a right to whatever you have that they want. I lived that. Let me give you a quick account of one event that happened to me there.

In October, 2020, I went to work for a Chinese man in a northern Chinese city. He immediately began cheating and stealing money from me. I warned him to stop, but he kept doing it, and since we were in the middle of a semester, I really wasn’t in a position to do much. He persisted in his actions, and even had the audacity to tell me he was going to CONTINUE doing it. He flat told me he was going to keep stealing money from me. I was his “hairy foreign devil” employee, everything I had came from and thus belonged to him, so he was going to take what he wanted from me. And I was to submit. Well, I didn’t. I resigned. Given the horrible situation of foreigners working in China, I couldn’t get another job unless he “released” me from his job, but he illegally demanded more money from me before he would let me go. He had all the leverage. The new company I was going to work for wouldn’t help me, so I was forced to give him more money just to get away from him. I eventually sued him and am waiting now for the verdict of the court. The new company I went to work for proved to also be liars, cheats, and thieves, so that was enough. I left China last summer and came to Thailand. I’ll never go back to the “Middle Kingdom”.

That’s China elitism, folks. There are nice people in China, but they all grow up being taught this innate sense of their own superiority. And so, while some of China’s response to the destruction of their spy balloon is face-saving bombastic cow manure, there is also an element of “how dare you, you inferior insects!”

I don’t know how many people in Washington really understand China and what the CCP

is trying to do. But nothing evil they do surprises me one bit.

2.2.19 Life Under Communism: Hell on Earth (2023-02-07 00:50)

Communism begins from the outset with atheism. Communism, as fully developed naturalism, equals humanism.

Karl Marx, Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts.[1]

Our Constitution was made only for a religious and moral people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.

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John Adams, our second President.

Anti-Life Philosophy.

Many Soviets viewing the current chaos and nationalist unrest under Gorbachev look back almost longingly to the era of brutal order under Stalin.

Mike Wallace, on the February 11, 1990 edition of “60 Minutes.”

I think that Soviet historians are exaggerating. I thought Stalin was a good leader.

Gus Hall, chairman of the American Communist Party.[2]

Communism is inherently superior to the corruption-riddled failure of Capitalism. Unlike Capitalism, Communism does not feed like a vampire upon the blood of the masses. In order to accomplish its goals, Communism does not need to exploit the masses and oppress them by stripping them of basic human rights like the freedom of reproductive choice.

Eventually, the entire world will be a Communist paradise.

The Process of Destruction.

The whole system we live under is completely worthless, and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party of the USA (RCP).[3]

Life Under Communism.

The more than forty newsletters and newspapers of the American Communist propaganda machine constantly churn out attacks on the “corrupt capitalist system” we live under. They say that the Communist economic system is ideally tailored to the needs of humanity. Its alleged goal is to create a worldwide “People’s Paradise” in which all people will be equal, with no race, gender, or class distinctions, and where all will “struggle” for the common good.

They craftily omit a working description of living conditions under the actual system that oppresses almost two billion people in the world today.

In the “People’s Paradise,” there is plenty of struggle but very little good. Far from dwelling in Paradise, the people who are mired in Communist nations know from long and agonizing experience that their governments are incredibly oppressive, corrupt, and inefficient. The Communist/atheist rulers and their toadies are invariably bullies, liars, cheats, and incompetents who are afraid of any opposition and who are literally terrified of free speech. Significantly, these are prominent characteristics of the atheists and Communists in the United States as well.

Basic Strategy.

Although the overall strategies employed by the Communists vary somewhat from country to country, they basically use one tried-and true master plan that is executed in three steps;

- (1) “prepare the ground” by infiltration and subversion of anti-Communist organizations and churches while preaching total freedom in order to get people “hooked on entitlements;”
- (2) seize power as quickly and as ruthlessly as possible; and
- (3) immediately reorganize society to focus and centralize power in the hands of a very few powerful men.

These steps are briefly outlined in the following paragraphs.

Preparing the Ground.

The most important part of any Revolution or counterrevolution, for that matter is prior preparation. This preparation is based upon the vital strategy of weakening your strongest opponents by infiltrating and subverting them, while simultaneously strengthening your own forces.

The Christian Church and the family have always been the most formidable opponents of Communism, both before and after the Revolutions. The other three teachers of national morality have traditionally been the law, the schools, and the media.

The latter three have been turned against traditional morality and the Church has been effectively neutralized. All that is left is the family, which is under increasingly focused attack.

The Communists are at last beginning to realize that the Church and the family really thrive only when they are being oppressed, and that it is literally impossible to entirely stamp out belief in God and the family.

The reverse of the above, unfortunately, is also true. When the Church enjoys complete and unfettered freedom, it gets fat and undisciplined, because it becomes larded with “believers” who want to be Christians without cost. The concepts of Satan, sin, sacrifice and suffering are the first to go. Pastors forget their God-ordained mission and preach humanism instead. Eventually, the Church becomes a great social activist’s club as it has in the United

States, and it gives up the saving of souls in favor of supporting such atrocities as abortion and homosexuality, all under the banner of “freedom of choice” (for further information on the disintegration of the clergy in the mainline churches, see Chapter 42 of Volume I, “Church Positions on Abortion”).

As the Master of Revolution, Vladimir Lenin, has correctly stated; “We will find our greatest success to the extent that we inculcate Marxism as a kind of religion: Religious men and women are easy to convert and win, and so will easily accept our thinking if we wrap it up in a kind of religious terminology.”[4]

During times of prosperity, the definition of the other great bulwark of democracy the family also becomes unfocused and weak. More and more people discard marriage entirely and instead “shack up.” Married couples have only one or two children if they consent to have children at all. These kids are incessantly indoctrinated in the joys of total freedom from responsibility by our schools. Homosexuals lobby for the “rights” to marry, raise children, and receive the benefits of being a family. Open marriages abound, and “sequential monogamy” erodes the sanctity of the institution.

Two quotes illustrate the above principles very clearly. The first demonstrates how thoroughly our churches have been subverted. In January of 1970, Clergy and Laity Concerned issued a “Policy Statement” that claimed;

What we are about today is not simply an end to the war in Vietnam, but a struggle against American imperialism and exploitation in just about every corner of the world ... Our task is to join those who are angry and who hate the corporate power which the United States presently represents, and to attempt, in our struggle, to liberate not only black, brown, and yellow men in every corner of the world, but more importantly, to help liberate our own nation from its reactionary and exploitative policies.[5]

The second, taken from the Revolutionary Communist Party’s New Programme, shows how the Communists subvert the family in the post-Revolution environment;

The right to abortion will be guaranteed ... As far as the policy toward the family, it will be recognized for what it is: Not some holy or sacred institution to be preserved for all time ... not only will the family be a secondary form for determining children’s upbringing, but its influence in promoting conservatism among its members, especially the women and children, will be actively combatted. While the parents will still have significant responsibility for their children, this does not mean they are “theirs,” and there will be struggle to prevent parents from imposing old values, and conservative, non-revolutionary thinking generally on the children.[6]

Other tactics used by the Communists in the pre-Revolution environment are described in Chapter 95, “Lenin’s Rules for Revolution.”

“Cleansing” After the Revolution.

After the Reds have accomplished their bloody Revolution, the entire conquered society must be totally subjugated and transmogrified, and all institutions and entities must be forcibly crammed into an approved Socialist mold, including the Church, all levels of government and schools, and, most importantly, the family.

As soon as possible after the Revolution, the Communists jail and silence Church leaders, including bishops, priests and ministers, and leading lay people. They also immediately disband Bible-believing religious organizations or severely restrict their activities, because these entities preach morality and are the antithesis of atheism and Communism. The objective of such oppression is the total eradication of the visible Church.

Avraham Shirfrin states in his *The First Guidebook to Prisons and Concentration Camps* of the former Soviet Union that tens of thousands of Christians are still trapped in more than 2,000 slave labor camps for the heinous crimes of "... reading religious books, posting up notices, or demanding religious instruction for their children." And, in Albania, making the sign of the cross is punishable by three years in prison.[7]

Although the Christian Church usually bears the brunt of post-Revolution atheist rage, it isn't the only institution that is mercilessly dismembered. All native intellectuals and professionals are silenced, removed from their jobs, or even shot. Those indigenous turncoats who assisted the Revolution are invariably executed, because they are members of an activist class of individuals who may turn against their new masters.

Vladimir Lenin summarizes the communist's formal program in his August 22, 1922 letter to the Politburo; "The more representatives of the reactionary bourgeoisie and the reactionary clergy that we manage to shoot the better. Now is the time to teach the public such a lesson that for many decades they will not dare even to think of any sort of resistance." [8]

Every available tool is used if it advances the interest of the Communists; promises, lies, threats, blackmail, torture, execution, and even genocide. The Communists, in enslaving half of the world's population, have murdered an estimated 120 million to 150 million people. The megakillers include Mao (50 million murders), Pol Pot (12 million), Lenin (6 million), Stalin (25 million), and uncounted others. The American Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) applauds this genocide and excuses it with such limp euphemisms as "unfortunate excesses of the People's Armies" and "necessary readjustments of the social order."

And these are the same atheists who constantly plead for peace and understanding while condemning pro-lifers for clinic bombings!

"Life" for the Masses.

To be Red is to be dead, only more slowly.

1

Alexsandr Solzhenitsyn.

A Grey Existence.

The common worker behind the Iron Curtain, so relentlessly lauded by Communist propaganda, leads a grey, dirty, lifeless existence. One must stand in line for hours in order to obtain the shoddy merchandise and bland, gummy food produced by the noble workers of the "People's Paradise." The vast majority of quality goods and food produced by Soviet satellites is shipped directly to the Soviet Union, leaving the dregs for the workers.

If people are fortunate enough to find the items they are looking for, it may be impossi-

ble to purchase them. The average wage in Communist satellites is about \$600 per year just \$12 per week! This is a deliberate program of enforced and universal poverty used by the government: If penniless people must constantly stand in line, they begin to realize that they are helpless to do anything other than scabble to survive. They are cowed and humiliated. Such persons will not be thinking of counterrevolution. They will be thinking only of satisfying their constant, gnawing hunger.

Most families have to wait for ten to twenty years for the privilege of buying a grey, dirty, rundown apartment with one bedroom, cold running water, and intermittent electricity.

While its people go hungry, the Soviet Bloc imports millions of tons of grain annually because its agricultural sector is comatose. This is partly because the Soviet Union consumes nearly half of its GNP in the manufacture of weapons for use by armies all over the world.

Remember that these same Communists are the primary instigators of the peace movement in the West.

Drugs and Drink.

Because of the intolerable grey sameness of their existence, huge numbers of workers have turned to drink and drugs. The alcoholism problem in Russia and its satellites is the worst in the world. At any given time, five to eight percent of the entire Soviet population is drunk. This is really no surprise since the State's chief source of revenue (after military weaponry) is its 80-proof vodka.

Communism = Feudal Monarchy.

For the Communist overlords, human beings are mere barnyard animals to be bred, aborted, and worked for the benefit of the fortunate elite on top.

1

Father Paul Marx of Human Life International.

Introduction.

The proliferation of Communist newspapers in America tell us that their system is vastly superior to Capitalism. They say that, under Communism, everyone will live equally, from the highest bureaucrat to the lowest farmer and from the most skilled doctor to the most inept janitor. The catchy Communist slogan is: "From each according to his abilities and to each according to his needs."

Communism is indeed a perfect system but only for perfect human beings. Communism would function perfectly if human beings were not susceptible to any kind of temptation.

However, as long as there are imperfect people in this world, Communism even more than Capitalism will be powerless to prevent poverty and graft. As the American Communists cry out that our system is "incurably corrupt" and rife with "gross inequalities," they totally ignore the astounding disparity in living standards behind the Iron Curtain.

Behind the Curtain, those who are fortunate enough to be in power have opportunities

to pillage the wealth of the people to a degree unheard of in the West. While the Communist overlords force the masses to live under atrocious conditions, they live literally like feudal lords.

The following paragraphs give examples of how Communist leaders have pillaged the wealth of their countries while their people shiver in coldwater flats.[9]

Nicolae Ceausescu, Feudal Lord. Nicolae Ceausescu, Communist dictator of Romania for 25 years, lived in splendor that would make the Rockefellers turn a rich, deep green with envy.

While in power, Ceausescu claimed repeatedly that he lived just like an average Romanian did.

Meanwhile, he wore a different \$500 suit every day. In the evening, the suit would be discarded and burned. Over the course of Ceausescu's quarter-century reign, the cost of this indulgence alone was more than \$4 million, or equivalent to 600 years of the average worker's salary.

His primary residences were two 150-room mansions with golden walls and solid 14-karat gold furniture. His black Labradors ate imported caviar in their very own marble-lined rooms.[10]

Ceausescu squandered another five million dollars on a yacht he visited only once, and blew more than two million dollars on tens of thousands of formal photographs of himself and his family.

He loved to hunt, and in a single day shot 100 deer illegally. These deer had been driven into his sights by a company of soldiers. When he went fishing, military frogmen would be stationed at his favorite spots ahead of time so that they could attach trophy-sized perch to his line.

He built more than 80 homes for himself all over Romania, including 23 lavish, fully-equipped hunting lodges. While his people shivered during the harsh winters due to the constant shortages of coal and natural gas, he kept all 23 lodges fully heated continuously in the off-chance he felt like dropping in on a whim. He never visited most of the lodges.

Ceausescu bestowed upon his wife Elena, a fifth-grade dropout, the title of "the country's leading chemical engineer," and he appointed her head of the National Council for Science and Technology, although she did not even know the chemical formula for carbon dioxide (i.e., CO₂).

Ceausescu had five sons, all of whom he appointed to important government posts. His youngest son Nicu was constantly accompanied by bodyguards, and on numerous occasions would drop into a restaurant for the purpose of raping a woman customer. He would select a woman, have the bodyguards clear the restaurant, and then assault her. Any hint of resistance or even a verbal protest from a husband or boyfriend would result in his being beaten almost to death and jailed for years.

When Nicu was finally arrested by police after his father's December 25, 1989 execution, the police found all of the toilets in his house clogged with paper money, and discovered millions of dollars worth of currency stacked in boxes and bags everywhere.

Ceausescu is the dictator who outlawed abortion and contraception in his country, and who demanded that each woman bear the State five children. This is the only known case of “mandatory motherhood” known in the world today and, just like forced abortion, such atrocities against human reproduction are always committed exclusively by Communists.

The Kings of East Germany.

Until October of 1989, the 23-member East German Politburo dwelled in splendor at a lavish compound located at Wandlitz, about 15 miles north of Berlin.

While the average East German worker earned less than \$8,000 a year, this compound cost \$32 million annually just to maintain (and this doesn't count paying off the capital costs of construction)!

In case you are in the market for a little piece of paradise, the following are just a few of the features of this prime piece of real estate;

247 manicured acres, patrolled on a 24-hour basis by a 44-man platoon of the Stasi (State Security Police);

25 mansions, each boasting a cadre of full-time butlers and maids;

An exclusive boutique modeled after Nieman-Marcus (all items, unlike those showcased by Nieman-Marcus, are free);

Hothouses that provide fresh vegetables of every description even during the bitter East German winters, when the masses are huddling in unheated flats. Three full-time botanists are on staff to tend to Premier Willi Stoph's plot of tropical plants.

Two mechanics tend Communist Party boss Erich Honecker's seven cars, which include a customized armored \$95,000 1988 Mercedes 560 SEC and a top-of-the-line customized \$55,000 Jaguar 12-cylinder XJC.

After these extraordinary excesses were revealed in late 1989, Opposition leader Rolf Henrich, a lawyer with the New Forum, complained that “They told us we were sacrificing for a better future. But in reality, as the German saying goes, they were preaching water and drinking wine.”

Wine? More like fine aged whiskey kept in gold-lined barrels!

Other Examples.

Quite simply, when a small group of people is given absolute power, they will inevitably get greedy and begin to “acquire” the belongings of the people for themselves. There has never been a Communist government that was not totally corrupt on all levels, and this corruption is generally prevalent enough to literally sap the life blood of a country.

Bulgaria's dictator Todor Zhivkov, whose academic career never went beyond the seventh grade, had ghostwriters pen more than fifty books for him. His total royalties for these volumes was 1.5 million leva, equivalent to 500 years' salary for the average Bulgarian. He also helped himself to 80 pounds of gold coins from the national treasury, and built 33 luxurious mansions for himself all around the country. Sofia University law professor Yanko Yankov spent five and a half years in prison for failing the dictator's ignorant son on a first-year law exam.

Hungary's Defense Minister Lajos Czinege used army troops and government materials to construct a huge mansion and a luxurious country villa on his personal 24-square mile hunting preserve, which was surrounded by 85 miles of electrified fence.

Even the "ultimate Communists" in the former Soviet Union are not immune to such pervasive graft. Every member of Moscow's Politburo is assigned a large personal staff, including an Army officer who headed a cadre of three cooks, three waitresses, a housemaid and a chief gardener with several assistants.

If a Politburo member wants a new suit, he is fitted for one free of charge in his own room. If he wants to give someone a lavish gift, an assistant brings him a detailed catalogue, and all he has to do is select the gift and give the assistant the name of the person to whom it will be sent all completely free of charge, of course.

Conclusion.

Such abuses are typical of the Communist overlords. Boris Yeltsin, former member of the Politburo, writes that "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs. And so it is for those at the top of the Party pyramid. Their abilities, alas, are not outstanding. But their needs! Their needs are so great that so far it has only been possible to create real Communism for a couple of dozen people."

Communism is simply not compatible with human nature. When you have the people under iron control and all resistance and speech is crushed, you can get away with literally anything you like. You can kill. You can rape. And you can force women to have babies or force them to have abortions.

And this is the system that most pro-abortionists lean towards! There is not much "freedom of choice" in anything behind the Iron or Bamboo Curtains!

Examples of Suffering Under Communism.

Freedom of conscience, that is the right to profess any religion or not to profess any religion, to perform religious rites or to conduct atheist propaganda, shall be guaranteed for all citizens of the USSR ... The church in the USSR shall be separated from the state and the school from the church.

1

Article 52 of The Soviet Constitution.

Poland's Endless Martyrdom.

Theologians generally believe that the Christian Church requires oppression from outside sources in order to thrive. Proof of this theory is abundant in Poland.

The attack on the Polish Catholic Church began in 1953, when Marxists broke up Masses, killed scores of Polish priests, and imprisoned the Polish prelate, Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński. The atheists then prohibited the building of all churches for thirty years and banned any church publications at all including parish bulletins![11]

In early 1981, the Communists were finally forced to back off by Lech Walesa's Solidarity. However, Solidarity eventually gained too much strength for the Communists' liking. On December 12, 1981, the government suddenly imposed martial law, and arrested 10,000 Solidarity members and the leadership of the Polish pro-life movement (the Communists didn't like the Polish pro-life practice of placing lighted candles before the homes of pro-abortion officials and abortionists).[11] More than a hundred of these prisoners died from convenient so-called "tragic accidents" or "suicides."

One of these "accidents" was inflicted upon Poland's twentieth-century martyr, Father Jerzy Popieluszko, who inspired the nation by the way he lived and the way he died. "Jurek" was a personal friend of Solidarity boss Lech Walesa and the leader of Poland's pro-life movement as well. The Communists tried to kill the priest three times and, on October 19, 1984, they finally succeeded.

After celebrating Mass one night, Father Jerzy was intercepted by three secret policemen, who beat him, tied him up, then tortured him to death. Suspecting foul play, Catholics all over the country rose up and demanded to know where he was.

Forced to produce his body, the grinning secret police dragged his unrecognizable corpse out of the River Vistula eleven days after he died. In spite of the government's demand that he be buried in obscurity, he was laid to rest in a tomb surrounded by a large Rosary shaped in the outline of Poland at a funeral attended by more than two million. Since then, his grave, at the Church of St. Stanislaw Kostka, has been visited by more than ten million pilgrims, including Pope John Paul II.[11]

Jerzy was not the last to die. Many Polish priests are still murdered by the cowardly Communists. The pro-Solidarity priest, Stanislaw Suchowolek, a frequent victim of government harassment, died of suffocation in his home, which then mysteriously burned down. Father Stefan Niedzielek, 74 years old, died of a broken neck inflicted on a dark Bialystok street in January 1989. The local community believed, once again, that this was the work of the government. They are, by now, familiar with the cowardly atheist attacks on old men in the dark.

The Communists are not only cowards, they are incurably inept. In Poland, the Communists confiscated all hospitals and schools run by the Catholic Church. Today there are only three kidney dialysis machines in the entire country. Doctors are paid less than common laborers, because the Communists know that those persons with education and intelligence must be humiliated and worked like animals if they are to remain harmless. Surgeons must endure double shifts because their woefully outdated equipment is so scarce. Virtually all advanced medical equipment and medicines have to be imported from the "decadent" West.

It is wise to remain healthy behind the iron curtain.

As Christians have known for 2,000 years (and as tyrants seem incapable of learning), the Church may well be healthiest when it is persecuted. For example, despite all of her tribulations, the Polish Catholic Church currently ordains more priests than any other country in the world and more than twice as many as the United States, which possesses three times Poland's population! Additionally, Poland is only the size of New Mexico, but has more than 3,000 centers dedicated to teaching natural family planning. This is ten times the number of

NFP centers in the entire United States![11]

Standoff in the Ukraine.

In the Western Ukrainian village of Holyn, close to the Polish border, the Communist authorities told the people that they could finally open a church as long as they footed the cost themselves. The enthusiastic villagers went to work and finished their beautiful church in 1977. But the atheists, liars as always, announced that they were then going to seize the church and convert it into an "atheist museum."

However, the villagers would not be bullied. The atheist Soviets, showing the true colors of 'tolerant' atheists everywhere, bulldozed more than 150 churches in the Ukraine in 1977 alone. So the villagers stood guard for more than ten years, day and night, to prevent atheist thugs from destroying the church. The atheist gangs attempted more than 100 times to gain access to the church by beating up and tear-gassing the guards, who did not yield. Finally, the atheists poisoned the water that the village men drank, and several of them died.

The church, however, was not closed.

The Spiritual Battle in Bulgaria.

The Church had been a constant thorn in the side of Bulgarian Communists for decades when the Communist Party Congress finally got fed up and passed a resolution in 1988 to "finish the Church." [12] And they weren't talking about completing its construction!

The Bulgarian Communist government strictly controls all printing, and the personal possession or manufacture of any religious articles or books is strictly forbidden. Many church buildings dot the Bulgarian countryside, but most have been converted into discos and ice-skating rinks. The larger cathedrals and more well-known and popular church buildings are kept permanently closed by "reconstruction" activities and cannot be entered.

But Bulgarian Christians carry on. As one of them said, "God had me born here because if I had been born in the West I would have died of temptation in one day. Here the enemy is visible." [12]

References: Life Under Communism.

Here they [the Soviets] are, trying to emulate our system, which is collapsing.

1

Ted Turner to his wife, "Hanoi Jane" Fonda.[13]

[1] Karl Marx, quoted in D.L. Cuddy. "Are Public Schools Opening the Door to Humanism?" National Federation for Decency Journal, October 1986, page 21.

[2] Gus Hall, chairman of the American Communist Party, quoted in National Review, February 5, 1990, page 14.

[3] Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party of the USA (RCP), quoted in the Revolutionary Communist Party Worker, July 10, 1989, page 2.

[4] Lenin: Selected Works. 3 volumes, 2,225 pages. Distributed in English by Progress Publishers, 21, Zubovsky Boulevard, Moscow.

[5] Cal Thomas and Wayne Stayskal. Liberals for Lunch. Westchester, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1985. Page 20.

[6] Revolutionary Communist Party's New Programme. "The Proletariat, Upon Seizing Power, Will Immediately Take Up the Transformation of Society," page 78.

[7] "Short Endings." Fidelity Magazine, June 1990, page 23.

[8] Vladimir Lenin's August 22, 1922 letter to the Politburo. Quoted in Keston News Service, National Catholic Register, July 1, 1990, page 8.

[9] Charles Parmiter. "The Red Aristocrats." Reader's Digest, October 1990, pages 151 to 156.

[10] Holly Danks. "Romania Tries to Claw Way Out of Pit Dug by Ceausescu." The Oregonian, March 12, 1991, page A3.

[11] Human Life International Reports. "Poland's Endless Martyrdom." Number 37, November 1987, and "Inside the People's Paradise." Number 38, December 1987.

[12] Dennis Englemen. "Bulgaria's Embattled Christians." Catholic Twin Circle, April 16, 1989, page 3.

[13] Ted Turner to his wife, "Hanoi Jane" Fonda, in Moscow Square in October of 1990. Quoted in National Review, November 19, 1990, page 13.

Further Reading: Life Under Communism.

AA-1025. Memoirs of an Anti-Apostle.

109 pages. Order from Our Lady's Book Service, Nazareth Homestead, R.D. 1, Box 258, Constable, New York 12926, telephone: 1-800-263-8160. AA stands for Anti-Apostle: a Communist agent who has agreed to enter a Catholic seminary or pastor's training for another church and who works to destroy conservative churches from within. Lenin sponsored and encouraged this system, which is not just a figment of the imagination it is real! This book helps to explain what is happening in the Church today why it is paralyzed and seemingly incapable of effective action.

Warren H. Carroll. 70 Years of the Communist Revolution.

Paperback, hardbound. Order from Stella Maris Books, Post Office Box 11483, Fort Worth, Texas 76110, telephone: 1-800-772-5928. This book explains the nature of Communism and details its history with great clarity. An excellent basic text on the scourge of Communism.

Robert Conquest and Jon Manchip White. What To Do When the Russians Come

From the Conservative Book Club, 15 Oakland Avenue, Harrison, New York 10528. Although somewhat dated in light of recent events, this book is still generally useful. It shows how the Communists will conquer this land, how various groups are likely to fare under the new

government, details on the resistance movement, famine in America, and how life in general under a Communist regime would be.

Hamish Fraser. *Fatal Star*.

1954, 296 pages, hardcover, softcover. Order from Our Lady's Book Service, R.D. No. 1, Box 258, Constable, New York 12926, telephone: 1-800-263-6160. The story of a militant member of the Communist Party and how he journeyed from atheism to the Catholic Church. The author shows in detail how the Marxist system has an utter disregard for human rights and the truth, and describes the hideous threat it poses to an unsuspecting and passive Christian Church.

Father Giacomo Gardin. *Banishing God in Albania*.

162 pages. Order from: Ignatius Press, 15 Oakland Avenue, Harrison, New York 10528, telephone: 1-800-528-0559. Father Giacomo, who spent a decade in prison merely practicing his faith, tells the brutal story of how atheistic Communism attempts to crush the spirit of religious people everywhere. He outlines in detail the Communist methods of mock trials, labor camps, and other tortures, and tells the story of suffering, persecution, and martyrdom of his friends at the hands of the atheists.

Greenhaven Press. *Communism: Opposing Viewpoints*.

Greenhaven Press Opposing Viewpoints Series, Post Office Box 289009, San Diego, California 92128-9009. 1986, 216 pages. Each section includes several essays by leading authorities on both sides of each issue. The topics covered include peaceful coexistence between the USSR and the United States, Communism in the Third World, and personal freedom and life in the USSR. A catalog is available from the above address and can be obtained by calling 1-(800) 231-5163.

Vladamar Kozina. *Communism as I Know It*.

60 pages. Order from Our Lady's Book Service, Nazareth Homestead, R.D. 1, Box 258, Constable, New York, 12926. Telephone: 1-800-263-8160. A true story about Communism by one who survived it while watching his mother, father, and brother murdered by the system. Gives an authentic view of living under the oppressive Communist overlords.

John Koster. *The Atheist Syndrome*.

This great book shows how atheists have rewritten history to show only the best side of atheism and the worst side of Christianity. It also shows just how savage and degenerate most atheist "heroes" like Lenin, Marx, Darwin, Freud, and Nietzsche really were.

Father Vincent P. Miceli. *The Gods of Atheism*.

485 pages. Order from Catholic Treasures, 626 Montana Street, Monrovia, California 91016, or from Keep the Faith, 810 Belmont Avenue, Post Office Box 8261, North Haledon, New Jersey 07508, telephone: (201) 423-5395. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen called this "as complete a study of atheism as exists in any language." The author shows that, while we have been spending trillions of dollars defending against the Communist onslaught from the outside, our country has been eaten away by the atheism cancer on the inside. God is even outlawed in our schools. Father Miceli shows why Communism must be atheistic and why it is the ultimate spiritual evil; why Christian parents must firmly inculcate their children with Christian beliefs; and how atheism is the great temptation of the educated and/or intelligent. Covers the similarities between Neoliberals and Communists, the roots and virulent nature of atheism, and the proper Christian response to it.

Charles Moser, treasurer of the Free Congress Foundation. Combat On Communist Territory.

240 pages. Order from Trinity Communications, Post Office Box 3610, Manassas, Virginia 22110, telephone: (703) 369-2429. The author gives a detailed account of the struggles of the Freedom Fighters against Communists in eight countries.

Pope Pius XI. Encyclical on Atheistic Communism.

50 pages. Order from Our Lady's Book Service, Nazareth Homestead, R.D. 1, Box 258, Constable, New York, 12926. Telephone: 1-800-263-8160. Why the Catholic Church officially and irrevocably condemns the scourge of Communism: because it is irretrievably not only atheistic, but anti-Christian.

Father James Schall. Liberation Theology.

402 pages. Order from Keep the Faith, Inc., 810 Belmont Avenue, Post Office Box 8261, North Haledon, New Jersey 07508. The author draws on important contemporary research articles to produce a thorough indictment of the basics of liberation theology.

Grazyna Sikorska. Jerzy Popieluszko: A Martyr for the Truth.

William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 255 Jefferson Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. 1985. Reviewed by Chilton Williamson, Jr. on page 50 of the June 28, 1985 issue of National Review. The life story and struggles of the Solidarity priest who was beaten to death in October of 1984 by Polish government secret police.

Although there is much to be said for liberation theology, this concept has been the perfect vehicle for left-wing groups to exploit. For information on the propagation of this theory in the Catholic Church, contact;

Catholics United Against Liberation Theology

2414 South 208th Street
Seattle, Washington 98198.

If you would like to help ease the pain of a fellow Christian trapped behind the Atheist Curtain, you can write to them to help them keep their faith. For information, contact

The Persecuted Church Commission

Box 1340
Kingston, New York 12401.

The PCC is interdenominational, and its goal is to help God's children behind the Iron Curtain in any way possible.

Other groups that minister to oppressed Christians in Communist countries include;

Christian Rescue Efforts for the Emancipation
of Dissidents (CREED)

787 Princeton Kingston Road
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

East European Harvest

998 Dauphin Island Parkway
Mobile, Alabama 36605
Telephone: (205) 471-5761

For further information on Communism from the Christian point of view, call or write to;

The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation
Post Office Box 11321
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
Telephone: (314) 991-2939

The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, founded in 1958 by a missionary expelled from China by the Communists, is a worldwide, non-profit educational organization that offers reliable and documented information on the nature, propaganda, and goals of atheistic Communism. The Foundation issues its monthly Mindszenty Report and a quarterly Red Line magazine. The Foundation is named after the late Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary. After the Communist takeover of his country in 1949, in keeping with typical Communist treatment of church leaders, he was sentenced to life imprisonment on the usual totally false charges of "treason, espionage, and currency offenses." He was imprisoned until freed by Hungarian nationalist rebels in 1956, and then took refuge in the United States embassy in Budapest for 15 years. In 1971, he was exiled to Rome and died in Vienna in 1975.

On September 22, 1989, an official Hungarian State Commission exonerated Cardinal Mindszenty of all of these crimes posthumously, and revealed that the primate had been tortured extensively during his incarceration.

2.2.20 Classified Document Discovered During Search at Pence's Home (2023-02-12 12:02)

Federal authorities found an additional document with classified markings during a search of the home of former Vice President Mike Pence on Friday.

According to NBC News, investigators spent about five hours in Pence's home for an unrestricted search for any classified documents. The adviser, Devin O'Malley, said the markings were on just one page and not six additional pages.

The adviser, Devin O'Malley, said that the "Department of Justice completed a thorough and unrestricted search of five hours and removed one document with classified markings and six additional pages without such markings that were not discovered in the initial review by the vice president's counsel."

"The vice president has directed his legal team to continue its cooperation with appropriate authorities and to be fully transparent through the conclusion of this matter," he added.

Reports broke early Friday that the FBI was searching Pence's home for classified documents, a senior law enforcement official told NBC News.

Reportedly, the search came after Pence found a “small number” of classified documents in his home in Carmel, Indiana, and one day after he was subpoenaed in a federal probe. The search on Friday was negotiated between Pence’s team and the Department of Justice (via NBC):

The search came weeks after Pence reported finding a “small number” of classified documents in his home in Carmel and a day after it was revealed he had been subpoenaed in a separate federal probe — the special counsel’s investigation into former President Donald Trump’s effort to stay in office after the 2020 election and role in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

A Justice Department official confirmed to NBC News the search was a “consent” search agreed upon by the department and Pence’s lawyers, and there were no search warrants issued in advance. All the ground rules for the search were stipulated to during negotiations between the Justice Department and the Pence team, the official said.

[...]

In a letter to the National Archives last month, Pence lawyer Greg Jacob said they’d found a “small number” of classified documents at the former vice president’s home after Pence asked “outside counsel” to look for documents in the wake of such papers being found in Biden’s Delaware home.

Jacob said the documents had been “inadvertently boxed and transported” to Pence’s home at the end of the Trump administration and that the former vice president “was unaware of the existence of sensitive or classified documents at his personal residence.”

Pence’s team “immediately” secured the classified documents in a locked safe after their Jan. 16 discovery, and FBI agents came to Pence’s home to retrieve the documents a few days later, the letter said.

Obama-era classified documents were found in the possession of President Joe Biden. And, as Matt reported this week, Biden blamed the individuals who packed his offices.

“What was not done well is, as they [the movers] packed up my offices to move them, they didn’t do the kind of job that should’ve been done, to go thoroughly through every piece of literature that’s there,” Biden told Judy Woodruff in an interview on PBS’s “NewsHour.” He then called the documents that were found “stray papers.”

2.2.21 John Kirby Confirms the U.S. Took Down a ‘High Altitude’ Object Over Alaska (2023-02-12 12:03)

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In a letter to the National Archives last month, Pence lawyer Greg Jacob said they'd found a "small number" of classified documents at the former vice president's home after Pence asked "outside counsel" to look for documents in the wake of such papers being found in Biden's Delaware home.

Jacob said the documents had been "inadvertently boxed and transported" to Pence's home at the end of the Trump administration and that the former vice president "was unaware of the existence of sensitive or classified documents at his personal residence."

Pence's team "immediately" secured the classified documents in a locked safe after their Jan.

16 discovery, and FBI agents came to Pence's home to retrieve the documents a few days later, the letter said.

As Townhall has covered, Obama-era classified documents were found in the possession of President Joe Biden. And, as Matt reported this week, Biden blamed the individuals who packed his offices.

"What was not done well is, as they [the movers] packed up my offices to move them, they didn't do the kind of job that should've been done, to go thoroughly through every piece of literature that's there," Biden told Judy Woodruff in an interview on PBS's "NewsHour." He then called the documents that were found "stray papers."

2.2.22 Why Leftist Ideologies Always Fail (2023-02-12 12:04)

I want to discuss, in the brief space I have, the roots of modern Leftist philosophy, and why they believe government and force are the essentials to a more perfect society. There is an inherent contradiction in their system which would nullify it, but the Leftist's fundamental understanding of human nature is in error, and thus any arrangement based on it is doomed to failure. And has.

Modern leftism has an interesting history, but one I cannot fully elucidate here. Though it has predecessors (Locke, Helvetius), its current manifestation is rooted in Darwinian materialism (one foundation of Marxism). According to this hypothesis, humans evolved, naturally and by chance, from "lower" forms of life. Pure, undiluted Darwinism, thus pure leftism, is atheistic—no God created or controlled the process. That means human beings are nothing more than blobs of matter in motion. The only difference between you and a cockroach is a different configuration of molecules, and that's totally by chance. You can no more help being a human than a cockroach can help being a cockroach. There is, of course, some verity to this.

However, since humans are nothing but groups of molecules in motion, we can react only to whatever environmental forces surround us. There is no freedom of choice in such a system. And no free will implies we are not responsible for what we do. Criminals aren't guilty of "crimes"; it isn't their fault, they respond exclusively to environmental factors. Also, poverty has been said to be a root cause of crime. Thus, by changing the environment (a "war on poverty"), human behavior can be modified. Put an apple tree in an environment of good water, soil, sunshine, etc., and bigger, tastier, juicier apples will be produced. The apples have no "choice" in the matter, they only respond to their surroundings. Since humans are, like apples, only molecules formed, by chance, into what we are, then, like apples, we will react only to whatever external stimuli we receive. People thus aren't "good" or "bad" except as their environment dictates.

Leftist intellectuals believe that humans (especially them) have evolved to the point where they can control the evolutionary process, if only we will give them power. They will create a Utopia, by good laws and education, so that everybody can be in a "good" environment and respond accordingly.

This philosophy is, of course, contrary to Christianity and many world religions, which believe that man is, in some ways, the offspring of a Divine Creator, given freedom of choice by that Creator on how they choose to live. Most conservatives believe in a philosophy like this, whether they are “religious” or not. People are not just naturalistic, materialistic animals, with nothing but instinct and response to environment. Some environmental forces are obviously evident in human behavior (culture, tradition, etc.); no one can, or should, deny this. But, in the conservative mind, humans have free will, and can choose to rise above their circumstances and form their own destiny. Not so, says the liberal, people only do “good” or “evil” in response to their (“systemic”) surroundings, whatever stimuli they receive from without. Again, change the stimuli, change the environment, and behavior will automatically be modified. It’s “science.” When people do evil, it’s the fault of the system (capitalism is usually blamed, or now, “white supremacy” and “racism”), not the fault of the individual.



[1]

Seattle Washington

The difference between liberalism and conservatism is thus based on a fundamentally different belief about human nature. Liberals want power so that they can create an earthly paradise. They believe they can now control all environmental factors, including the climate. Conservatives believe in freedom, but a freedom that has boundaries based on eternal principles of right and wrong. Humans can be, must be, incentivized and disciplined towards virtuous conduct, and thus to use their freedom for good, not evil. Family and religion best do this, not government.

Socialism is a prime example of liberal failure. The government, top-down, controls the economy. It never works because it denies humans the freedom to choose their needs and desires, rather than what the elite thinks is best. Nobody can control what another person wishes to purchase. Only the free market fits with human nature.

Liberal morality also is disastrous. Let Edmund Burke explain: “Society cannot exist unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there

is within [freedom of choice], the more there must be without [government tyranny].” People must use their freedom to control themselves—self-government. Or government will have to do it for them. Freedom or tyranny. The Right vs. the Left.

Thus, liberal politicians’ fundamental mistake is believing that human beings can be transformed by legislation, in effect, by force. But they are wrong, and that is why political systems, nations, and dynasties rise for awhile and then collapse. They fail in the most basic concept, viz., that freedom is in the human heart, not produced by government laws. And forcing people to outwardly conform will only lead eventually to resentment, rebellion, and revolution. That is why religion has always existed. Christianity, for example, has survived for 2,000 years through every kind of political system and upheaval. Jesus knew that humans can only truly be changed from within, in the heart, not by external laws. Therefore, religion has always existed, and will continue long after current political tyrannies have either disappeared completely or devolved into something else, something as useless and reprehensible as what they had replaced.

But, religion remains the greatest threat to the self-serving, elitist politicians who lust to control others and create the Shangri-la that gives them totalitarian power. The only people more pitiable than such politicians are the people who believe their lies, lies that have been repeated countless times throughout history, and have cost innumerable people their lives. For, what do you do with the rotten apples, the apples that don’t respond to the perfect environment you created for them?

You destroy them. As many as necessary.

1. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/d6/Statue_of_Lenin_Seattle.jpg?20170306162646

2.2.23 There’s a New Theory About the Flying Objects Biden Shot Down (2023-02-17 13:01)

President Biden finally broke his silence Thursday on the unidentified airborne objects that were shot down on his orders in recent days. As Katie reported, Biden acknowledged that the objects taken out were likely harmless research balloons, raising questions about the administration’s judgment in dealing with these objects across U.S. airspace.

Biden says we still don’t know what the "objects" are but that they aren’t tied to China. Instead likely belong to private companies for scientific research.

Biden used \$400,000 missiles to shoot down weather balloons after allowing Chinese spy balloon to travel the country.

— Katie Pavlich (@KatiePavlich) February 16, 2023

If the government knew the Chinese spy balloon was headed our way, then allowed it to drift across the continental United States, why were items that were apparently just research balloons shot down with \$400,000 missiles? The Biden administration has said the more recent objects jeopardized commercial air traffic — but isn’t there a cheaper way to take down weather balloons? Or keep aircraft away from them?

In any case, a new report from Aviation Week offers more speculation about what the balloons Biden downed may have been — and how little they cost compared to the missiles used to end their flights:

A small, globe-trotting balloon declared “missing in action” by an Illinois-based hobbyist club on Feb. 15 has emerged as a candidate to explain one of the three mystery objects shot down by four heat-seeking missiles launched by U.S. Air Force fighters since Feb. 10.

The club—the Northern Illinois Bottlecap Balloon Brigade (NIBBB)—is not pointing fingers yet.

But the circumstantial evidence is at least intriguing. The club’s silver-coated, party-style, “pico balloon” reported its last position on Feb. 10 at 38,910 ft. off the west coast of Alaska, and a popular forecasting tool—the HYSPLIT model provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—projected the cylindrically shaped object would be floating high over the central part of the Yukon Territory on Feb. 11. That is the same day a Lockheed Martin F-22 shot down an unidentified object of a similar description and altitude in the same general area.

Could this be true? It’s so absurd it almost has to be. More from Aviation Week:

There are suspicions among other prominent members of the small, pico-ballooning enthusiasts’ community, which combines ham radio and high-altitude ballooning into a single, relatively affordable hobby.

“I tried contacting our military and the FBI—and just got the runaround—to try to enlighten them on what a lot of these things probably are. And they’re going to look not too intelligent to be shooting them down,” says Ron Meadows, the founder of Scientific Balloon Solutions (SBS), a Silicon Valley company that makes purpose-built pico balloons for hobbyists, educators and scientists.

The descriptions of all three unidentified objects shot down Feb. 10-12 match the shapes, altitudes and payloads of the small pico balloons, which can usually be purchased for \$12-180 each, depending on the type.

“I’m guessing probably they were pico balloons,” said Tom Medlin, a retired FedEx engineer and co-host of the Amateur Radio Roundtable show. Merlin has three pico balloons in flight in the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

So, Biden may have used a \$400,000 missile to take down something floated by the Northern Illinois Bottlecap Balloon Brigade that cost as little as \$12? As Katie also pointed out after the objects were first shot down, it seemed like Biden was scrambling to show action amid criticism of Biden’s glaring inaction on the Chinese spy balloon.

The Biden administration royally screwed up by allowing the Chinese spy balloon into the U.S. after watching it approach, Americans noticed right before Blinken’s trip to China and then government allowed it to traverse the whole country with surveillance equipment. Now, after... <https://t.co/OXULthRQSG>

— Katie Pavlich (@KatiePavlich) February 13, 2023

The Aviation Week report noted that it "contacted a host of government agencies, including the FBI, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the National Security Council (NSC), and the Office of the Secretary of Defense for comment about the possibility of pico balloons," but they didn't get any more clarity. "The NSC did not respond to repeated requests. The FBI and OSD did not acknowledge that harmless pico balloons are considered possible identities for the mystery objects shot down by the Air Force," Aviation Week said.

2.2.24 Disinformation Inc vs. the Founding Fathers (2023-02-17 13:02)

How many people believe, really believe, in freedom of speech? Or, as Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote, not just "free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought that we hate"?

The answer is not as many as I supposed before reading my Washington Examiner colleague Gabe Kaminsky's series of articles exposing "Disinformation Inc."

Kaminsky's first article, appearing Feb. 9, described how "well-funded 'disinformation' tracking groups are part of a stealth operation blacklisting and trying to defund conservative media, likely costing the news companies large sums in advertising dollars."

Of course these firms pose as neutral nonpartisan groups whose only goal is to prevent inaccurate information from infecting the political dialogue. But one person's disinformation is another person's accurate advocacy.

And as with many media "fact-checkers" (my former Washington Examiner colleague Mark Hemingway wrote a classic takedown of the genre), so with Disinformation Inc., it turns out that all errors and falsehoods in journalism come from one end of the political spectrum. Hint: It's not the political Left.

One key outfit is the Global Disinformation Index, based in Britain, and two affiliated U.S.-based nonprofit groups. GDI produces a "dynamic exclusion list" rating media outlets on "disinformation risk." It says it wants to suppress content that "is morally reprehensible or patently inoffensive" and "without redeeming social value."

Its exclusion list reportedly includes the Washington Examiner, and its 10 "riskiest" outfits are all, to one extent or another, on the political Right. Disclosure: Those which have printed my writings over the years include the American Spectator, the American Conservative, RealClearPolitics and the New York Post.

GDI's CEO Clare Melford said that topics on which the group identified "disinformation" include COVID vaccination, masking rules, abortion and alleged voter fraud. These are all issues on which there is robust disagreement on both facts and moral values.

Unsurprisingly, GDI gives "least risky" ratings to sources including The New York Times, The

Washington Post (for which I worked for seven years), the Associated Press, BuzzFeed and HuffPost. This despite the fact that, as Kaminsky points out, BuzzFeed was the first to publish the fraudulent Steele dossier, charging former President Donald Trump with collusion with Russia, and HuffPost charged that the accurate October 2020 New York Post story on Hunter Biden's laptop was "Russian disinformation," even though Biden has subsequently confirmed that the laptop was his.

The conclusions that conservative outlets peddle disinformation and left-leaning outlets are reliable have been cast in doubt by two of the biggest stories of calendar year 2023.

The Columbia Journalism Review's exhaustive four-part series by former New York Times investigative reporter Jeff Gerth has shown how GDI's "least risky" media sources generally, and The New York Times in particular, provided misleading and inaccurate coverage of the false charges that Trump colluded with Russia.

And the independent and left-leaning reporter Matt Taibbi and the liberal activist Michael Shellenberger, in investigating Twitter files at the invitation of new owner Elon Musk, showed how now-fired and extremely liberal Twitter executives were more skeptical of the Russian collusion hoax and the charges that the New York Post's Biden laptop story was "Russian disinformation" than the media that shunned the story.

In other words, there's a strong argument that the media sources on the honor roll of Disinformation Inc. did more to mislead the public during the Trump presidency and after than the media sources on its S-list.

And the misleaders did so with U.S. government help. As Kaminsky reported, GDI received \$100,000 from the State Department's Global Engagement Center and \$250,000 from the congressionally funded National Endowment for Democracy, which had previously done yeoman's work promoting democracy abroad.

Should the U.S. government be financing suppression of speech?

More encouragingly, there's some snapback. Two days after Kaminsky's first article, Microsoft announced that Xandr, an ad firm it owns, was suspending its relationship with GDI. Perhaps Redmond, if not Silicon Valley, is wary of suppressing speech it doesn't agree with.



[1]

Democratic Party's Lenin statue in Seattle, Washington

Undoubtedly, the principals of the Disinformation Inc. complex Kaminsky has exposed are motivated by Trump's many misstatements and distortions, and many probably consider him some sort of Hitler. But Trump's presidency, however you view it, was not a Nazi regime. And his opponents have twisted and concealed the truth about as often, and arguably more effectively, than he has.

Stamping out robust political debate is an ugly business, the kind of thing that can happen when you suppress the speech of those you disagree with and thoughts you hate. The Founding Fathers had a better idea.

1. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/d6/Statue_of_Lenin_Seattle.jpg?20170306162646

2.2.25 Biden Turns Department of Defense Into 'Abortion Travel Agency' (2023-02-17 13:04)

Following October 2022 memo from Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin on "Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care," the Department of Defense has released three official policies that "take a series of actions to ensure Service members and their families are able to access non-covered reproductive health care."

These actions include policies to provide "administrative absence for non-covered reproductive health care" and "travel allowances for non-covered reproductive health care." Essentially, the Biden administration is providing a taxpayer funded workaround to allow

service members and their families to obtain non-covered abortions if they are stationed in a state where laws have been passed to protect the unborn.

While DoD still can't use tax dollars to pay for the abortion procedures themselves (outside of existing allowances in the case of rape, incest, or pregnancies that threaten the life of the mother), the new policies mean taxpayers will be funding time off and travel to obtain abortions.

And that has Republican lawmakers in both chamber of Congress warning that Secretary Austin and the Biden administration are overstepping their authority and violating the spirit and letter of established law limiting the use of tax dollars for abortion.

Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) slammed Secretary Austin for "following through with his radical plan to facilitate thousands of abortions a year with taxpayer dollars," adding that he "will follow through with my plan to hold all Department of Defense (DoD) civilian, flag, and general officer nominations that come before the U.S. Senate."

As I've stated, if Secretary Austin wants to change law, he should go through Congress. This is a severe misuse of taxpayer dollars — and I will hold him accountable. The American people want a military focused on national defense, not facilitating a progressive political agenda.

— Coach Tommy Tuberville (@SenTuberville) February 17, 2023

Tuberville reminded that "if Secretary Austin wants to change law, he should go through Congress," and the new DoD policies are "an illegal expansion of DoD authority and a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars — and I will hold him accountable. The American people want a military focused on national defense, not facilitating a progressive political agenda," Tuberville noted.

In the House, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL) — who serves as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee — said that the new policies mean "the Biden administration chose to make the Department of Defense an abortion travel agency over a lethal fighting force."

Our brave military is here to protect our freedom and our nation. It is not meant to advance the woke, Socialist Biden agenda, and it is certainly not meant to pay for abortion on demand. Joe Biden is a disgrace to our nation. <https://t.co/VXAYMrm76L>

— Mike Rogers (@RepMikeRogersAL) February 17, 2023

Rogers added that he has "repeatedly" warned the Biden administration that "taking this action jeopardizes congressional authorizations for our warfighters" and that he is "extremely disappointed the Biden administration chose once again to use our military to placate the radical left."

2.2.26 Democrats Have No Good Option for 2024 (2023-02-17 13:09)

Former South Carolina Governor and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley's 2024 presidential announcement this week, which makes her the first Republican to declare other than former President Donald Trump himself, formally commences what should prove to be a

tumultuous GOP presidential primary. But despite the impending made-for-TV tumult in the GOP primary, the fact remains that the party has a number of possible or likely candidates who are either well-qualified or broadly popular with a substantial slice of the national electorate.

The same is simply not true for the Democratic Party. And as the octogenarian President Joe Biden shows all signs of imminently launching his reelection campaign, even the mainstream press is starting to fret.

The New York Times, the closest thing to Democratic Party Pravda, has over the past year run a series of urgent articles sounding the alarm on Biden's unprecedented presidential age and declining cognitive abilities. Last July, the Times ran an article titled, "At 79, Biden Is Testing the Boundaries of Age and the Presidency"; last November, another Times article was titled, "President Biden Turns 80, Making Him the First Octogenarian in the Oval Office"; and earlier this month, left-wing commentator Michelle Goldberg titled her column, "Biden's a Great President. He Should Not Run Again." The Times followed Goldberg's column with a number of responsive letters to the editor, which ran last week under the title, "Is Biden Too Old to Run Again?"

What's more, on Thursday, Politico and CNN published nearly identical articles strongly suggesting White House palace intrigue and a party apparatus torn about what to do with its senile commander in chief: Politico's piece was titled, "Senior Democrats' Private Take on Biden: He's Too Old"; CNN's eerily similar article was titled, "Biden's age is a hot topic as he looks to extend his time in the Oval Office until he is 86." Clearly, many in the Biden White House are leaking like a loose faucet. Even more notably, the liberal press, which would normally protect an incumbent Democratic president at all costs, is the one stirring the pot.

Some card-carrying members of the insular Washington press corps are worried about the reelection prospects of the oldest-ever sitting president, who in his first term has presided over a calamitous Afghanistan withdrawal, 40-year-high inflation, soaring violent crime rates and the worst humanitarian crisis at the southern border in U.S. history. And who can blame them?

At the same time, disposing of an incumbent president – as the recent revelation of Biden's illicitly retained classified documents and the concomitant appointment of a special counsel to investigate his scandalous negligence indicate some in the Deep State may also desire – necessitates finding a replacement candidate. And therein lies the rub. Of the three leading alternative candidates for the Democrats' 2024 presidential nomination, there are no appealing options. All three, in fact, are terrible options.

I speak here of Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and California Governor Gavin Newsom.

The fact that Kamala Harris is unlikable, unliked, generally useless and unambiguously terrible at her job is the worst-kept secret in U.S. politics today. Harris famously secured not a single Democratic National Convention delegate during her ill-fated 2020 presidential run. She is ill-informed on policy and often speaks of complex issues in an overly simplistic and juvenile way. (Who can forget her gem last year on the Russo-Ukraine War: "Ukraine is a country in Europe. It exists next to another country called Russia. Russia is a bigger country.") She has endured massive staff turnover, and by all indications treats her staff horribly. And the Times has also seemingly soured on her; the headline of a long-form article a week and a

half ago: "Kamala Harris Is Trying to Define Her Vice Presidency. Even Her Allies Are Tired of Waiting."

Put simply, it is extraordinarily difficult these days to find a Democrat who is thrilled about the prospect of a future President Kamala Harris. By contrast, most Democrats soberly recognize how awful she is. And the fact that so few are willing to say the quiet part out loud bespeaks the death grip that identity politics pabulum now has on the Democratic Party.

Neither Buttigieg nor Newsom is a more enticing candidate. Buttigieg – who, it must be stipulated, was chosen for Biden’s Cabinet primarily not due to merit but rather on the basis of his personal sexual orientation – has proved to be, bar none, the single worst transportation secretary in the history of the U.S. Department of Transportation. In barely over two years, Buttigieg has overseen a crippling supply chain crisis (during which time Buttigieg was AWOL on paternity leave); a near-horrific national rail strike avoided at the last minute; the first FAA grounding of all national flights since 9/11; and most recently, a series of high-profile, visually shocking, destructive train derailments. It is evidently not possible to be worse at one’s job than the 41-year-old former mayor of Indiana’s fourth-largest city is at being transportation secretary of the United States.

Gavin Newsom is hardly any better. Newsom was forced to withstand a gubernatorial recall election in 2021, and conditions are so bad in his leftist fiefdom that California recently lost a House seat in the U.S. Census for the first time in state history. It got even worse after the 2020 Census: California shed 500,000 people between July 2020 and July 2022. Homicides have soared 41 % since 2019, and the Golden State’s estimated homeless population last year was an astounding 173,000. Meanwhile, Californians are forced to endure exorbitant housing costs and the single highest top state income tax rate in the country. In what universe, then, does Newsom, who bears a striking resemblance to Michael Douglas’ "Gordon Gekko" silver screen robber baron, qualify as presidential material?



[1]

Democratic Party's Lenin statue in Seattle.

In all likelihood, then, Democrats will roll the 2024 dice with their stammering, scandal-ridden, palpably weak, cognitively deficient presidential incumbent. And for all their own woes, Republicans surely could not be happier about that.

1. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/d6/Statue_of_Lenin_Seattle.jpg?20170306162646

2.2.27 Iain's videogame collection in 2023 (2023-02-19 21:45)

Console	Region	Type	Title	Year
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Nintendo 64	1080	◆	Snowboarding	1998
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Sony PlayStation 4	13		Sentinels: Aegis Rim	2020
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Sony PSP	3rd		Birthday, The	2011
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Nintendo 3DS	7th		Dragon III Code: VFD [Launch Edition]	2016
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Nintendo DS	999		Nine Hours, Nine Persons, Nine Doors	2010
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Sony PlayStation 2			Ace Combat 04: Shattered Skies	2001
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Sony PlayStation 2			Ace Combat 5: The Unsung War	2004
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Microsoft Xbox 360			Ace Combat 6: Fires of Liberation [Limited Edition Ace Edge Flightstick Bundle]	2007
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Sony PlayStation 4			Ace Combat 7: Skies Unknown	2018
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Sony PlayStation 2			Ace Combat Zero: The Belkan War	2006
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Sony PlayStation 3			Ace Combat: Assault Horizon [Walmart Exclusive]	2011
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Nintendo 3DS			Ace Combat: Assault Horizon Legacy +	2015
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Sony PSP			Action Replay Max	2005
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Nintendo SNES			ActRaiser	1991
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Nintendo SNES			ActRaiser 2	1993
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Sega Mega Drive			Advanced Busterhawk Gleylancer	1992
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Nintendo NES			Advanced Dungeons & Dragons: DragonStrike	1992
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Nintendo NES			Advanced Dungeons & Dragons: Heroes of the Lance	1991
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Nintendo NES			Advanced Dungeons & Dragons: Hillsfar	1993
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Nintendo NES			Advanced Dungeons & Dragons: Pool of Radiance	1992
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Nintendo NES			Adventure Island 3	1992
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Nintendo NES			Adventure Island II	1991
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Nintendo NES			Adventure Island, Hudson's [Oval Seal]	1989
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Nintendo NES			Adventures of Lolo	1989
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Nintendo NES			Adventures of Lolo 2	1990
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Nintendo NES			Adventures of Lolo 3	1991
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Sega Dreamcast			AeroWings 2: Airstrike	2000
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Sega Genesis			After Burner II	1990
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Sega CD			After Burner III	1993
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Sega Dreamcast			Airforce Delta	1999
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Microsoft Xbox 360			Akai Katana	2012
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Nintendo SNES			Aladdin, Disney's	1993
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Sega Genesis			Aladdin, Disney's	1993
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Sega Saturn			Albert Odyssey: Legend of Eldean	1997
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Nintendo Switch			Aleste Collection	2020
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Sega Genesis			Alex Kidd in the Enchanted Castle	1990
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Atari Jaguar			Alien vs Predator	1994
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Sega Genesis Alisia Dragoon 1992
 Nintendo 64 All-Star Baseball 2001 2000
 Nintendo Switch Alliance Alive, The: HD Remastered [Limited Edition] 2019
 IBM PC Alpha Centauri, Sid Meier's 1999
 Sony PlayStation Alundra 1998
 IBM PC Angry Birds 2011
 Nintendo GameCube Animal Crossing 2002
 Nintendo GameCube Animal Crossing [Player's Choice] 2003
 Nintendo Wii U Animal Crossing: Amiibo Festival [Amiibo Bundle] 2015
 Nintendo Wii Animal Crossing: City Folk 2008
 Nintendo Wii Animal Crossing: Let's Go To The City 2008
 Nintendo Switch Animal Crossing: New Horizons 2020
 Nintendo 3DS Animal Crossing: New Leaf 2013
 Nintendo DS Animal Crossing: Wild World 2005
 Sony PlayStation 3 Aquapazza: Aquaplus Dream Match 2013
 Sony PlayStation 3 Ar nosurge: Ode to an Unborn Star 2014
 Sony PlayStation 2 Ar tonelico II: Melody of Metafalica 2009
 Sony PlayStation 2 Ar tonelico: Melody of Elemia [Box Set] 2007
 Nintendo Wii Arc Rise Fantasia 2010
 Sony PlayStation Arc the Lad Collection 2002
 Sony PlayStation 2 Arc the Lad: Twilight of the Spirits 2003
 Sony PlayStation 2 Arcana Heart 2008
 Sony PlayStation Vita Arcana Heart 3 LOVE MAX!!!!!! 2014
 Sony PlayStation 3 Arcana Heart 3 LOVE MAX!!!!!! 2014
 Sega Saturn Area 51 1996
 Sega Genesis Ariel: The Little Mermaid, Disney's 1992
 Nintendo 64 Army Men: Sarge's Heroes 1999
 Sega Genesis Art of Fighting 1994
 Nintendo SNES Art of Fighting 1993
 Sony PlayStation 2 Art of Fighting Anthology 2007
 Sony PlayStation 3 Assassin's Creed 2007
 Sony PlayStation 3 Assassin's Creed II 2009
 Sony PlayStation 4 Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag 2013
 Microsoft Xbox One Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag 2013
 Sony PlayStation 3 Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood 2010
 Microsoft Xbox One Assassin's Creed: Unity 2014
 Sega Saturn Astal 1995
 Sony PlayStation 4 Astebreed 2017
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Atari Anniversary Advance 2002
 Atari Jaguar Atari Jaguar [64-Bit Power Kit] 1993
 Sony PlayStation 3 Atelier Ayesha: The Alchemist of Dusk 2013
 Sony PlayStation 3 Atelier Escha & Logy: Alchemists of the Dusk Sky 2014
 Sony PlayStation 4 Atelier Firis: The Alchemist and the Mysterious Journey 2017
 Sony PlayStation 2 Atelier Iris 2: The Azoth of Destiny 2006
 Sony PlayStation 2 Atelier Iris 3: Grand Phantasm 2007
 Sony PlayStation 2 Atelier Iris: Eternal Mana 2005
 Sony PlayStation 4 Atelier Lulua: The Scion of Arland [NIS America Premium Box Edition] 2019
 Sony PlayStation 4 Atelier Lydie & Suelle: The Alchemists and the Mysterious Paintings 2018
 Sony PlayStation 3 Atelier Meruru: The Apprentice of Arland 2012
 Sony PlayStation 3 Atelier Rorona: The Alchemist of Arland 2010

Sony PlayStation 4 Atelier Ryza 2: Lost Legends & The Secret Fairy 2021
Sony PlayStation 4 Atelier Ryza: Ever Darkness & the Secret Hideout 2019
Sony PlayStation 3 Atelier Shallie: Alchemists of the Dusk Sea [Collector's Edition] 2015
Sony PlayStation 4 Atelier Sophie 2: The Alchemist of the Mysterious Dream 2022
Sony PlayStation 4 Atelier Sophie: The Alchemist of the Mysterious Book 2016
Sony PlayStation 3 Atelier Totori: The Adventurer Of Arland 2011
Sony PlayStation 3 Awakened Fate Ultimatum, The 2015
Nintendo SNES Axelay 1992
Nintendo NES Back to the Future 1989
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Backyard Baseball 2006 2005
Sega Saturn Baku Baku 1996
IBM PC Baldur's Gate 1998
IBM PC Baldur's Gate II: Shadows of Amn [Collector's Edition] 2000
Microsoft Xbox Baldur's Gate: Dark Alliance 2002
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Baldur's Gate: Dark Alliance 2004
Sony PlayStation 2 Baldur's Gate: Dark Alliance II 2004
Nintendo Switch Baldur's Gate: Enhanced Edition + Baldur's Gate II: Enhanced Edition 2019
IBM PC Baldur's Gate: Tales of the Sword Coast 1999
Sega Dreamcast Bangai-O 2001
Nintendo DS Bangai-O Spirits 2008
Nintendo 64 Banjo-Kazooie 1998
Microsoft Xbox 360 Banjo-Kazooie: Nuts & Bolts 2008
Nintendo 64 Banjo-Tooie 2000
Nintendo NES Baseball [3 Screw] 1987
Nintendo NES Baseball Stars 1989
Nintendo GameCube Baten Kaitos Origins 2006
Nintendo GameCube Baten Kaitos: Eternal Wings and the Lost Ocean 2004
Nintendo NES Batman 1990
Nintendo SNES Batman & Robin, The Adventures of 1994
Nintendo SNES Batman Returns 1993
Sony PlayStation 3 Batman: Arkham Asylum 2009
Sony PlayStation 3 Batman: Arkham City 2011
Sony PlayStation 4 Batman: Arkham Knight [Limited Edition] 2015
Sega Saturn Batsugun 1996
Sega Saturn Battle Garegga 1998
IBM PC Battlefield 1942: The Complete Collection 2005
IBM PC Battlefield 2 2005
IBM PC Battlefield 2142 2006
Sony PlayStation 4 Battlefield 4 2013
Nintendo NES Battletoads 1991
Sega Genesis Battletoads 1993
Nintendo NES Battletoads / Double Dragon 1993
Nintendo Switch Bayonetta 3 2022
Nintendo Wii U Bayonetta [Bayonetta 2 Bundled] 2014
Sega Genesis Beauty and the Beast, Disney's: Belle's Quest 1993
Sega Genesis Beyond Oasis 1995
Nintendo NES Bible Adventures [Black Cartridge] 1992
Nintendo NES Bionic Commando [Oval Seal] 1989
Nintendo Game Boy Color Bionic Commando: Elite Forces 2000
Microsoft Xbox 360 Bioshock 2007

Microsoft Xbox 360 Bioshock 2 2010
Sony PlayStation 3 BioShock Infinite 2013
IBM PC Black & White 2 2005
IBM PC Black & White [Big Box] 2001
Nintendo SNES Blackthorne 1994
Nintendo NES Blades of Steel [Oval Seal] 1989
Sega Genesis Blades of Vengeance 1993
Sega Genesis Blaster Master 2 1993
Nintendo NES Blaster Master [Oval Seal] 1989
Sony PlayStation 3 BlazBlue: Calamity Trigger 2009
Sony PlayStation 4 BlazBlue: Central Fiction 2016
Sony PlayStation 3 BlazBlue: Chrono Phantasma [Limited Edition] 2014
Sony PlayStation 4 BlazBlue: Chronophantasma Extend 2015
Sony PlayStation 3 BlazBlue: Continuum Shift 2010
Sony PlayStation 4 Blazblue: Cross Tag Battle 2018
Nintendo Switch Blazblue: Cross Tag Battle [Collector's Edition] 2018
IBM PC Blood 1997
Sony PlayStation 4 Bloodborne [Collector's Edition] 2015
Nintendo Switch Bloodstained: Curse of the Moon 2019
Nintendo Switch Bloodstained: Ritual of the Night [Best Buy Steel Case] 2019
Nintendo 64 Bomberman 64 1997
Nintendo 64 Bomberman 64: The Second Attack! 2000
Nintendo GameCube Bomberman Generation 2002
Nintendo 64 Bomberman Hero 1998
Nintendo GameCube Bomberman Jetters 2004
Nintendo DS Bomberman Land Touch! 2006
Nintendo NES Bonk's Adventure 1993
Sega Dreamcast Border Down 2003
Sony PlayStation 3 Borderlands 2009
Sony PlayStation 3 Borderlands 2 2012
Sony PlayStation Brave Fencer Musashi 1998
Nintendo 3DS Bravely Default 2014
Nintendo Switch Bravely Default II 2021
Nintendo 3DS Bravely Second: End Layer 2016
Atari Jaguar Breakout 2000 1996
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Breath of Fire 2001
Nintendo SNES Breath of Fire 1994
Nintendo SNES Breath of Fire II 1995
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Breath of Fire II 2002
Sony PlayStation Breath Of Fire III 1997
Sony PlayStation Breath of Fire IV 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Breath of Fire: Dragon Quarter 2003
Nintendo Switch Broken Sword 5: The Serpent's Curse 2019
IBM PC Broken Sword I & II 2005
IBM PC Broken Sword: The Angel of Death 2006
Nintendo NES Bubble Bobble [Oval Seal] 1989
Nintendo NES Bucky O'Hare 1992
Nintendo NES Bugs Bunny Crazy Castle, The 1989
Sega Saturn Burning Rangers 1998
Sony PlayStation 2 Burnout 3: Takedown 2004

Sony PlayStation 3 Burnout Paradise 2008
Nintendo SNES Bust-A-Move 1995
Sony PlayStation Bust-A-Move '99 1999
Sega Saturn Bust-A-Move 2: Arcade Edition 1996
Sega Dreamcast Bust-A-Move 4 2000
Sony PlayStation 4 Caladrius Blaze 2017
Sony PlayStation 3 Caladrius Blaze [Limited Edition] 2014
Microsoft Xbox 360 Call of Duty 2 2005
Sony PlayStation 3 Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare 2007
Sony PlayStation 4 Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare [Atlas Limited Edition] 2014
Sony PlayStation 3 Call of Duty: Black Ops 2010
Sony PlayStation 3 Call of Duty: Black Ops II 2012
Sony PlayStation 4 Call of Duty: Black Ops III 2015
Sony PlayStation 4 Call of Duty: Ghosts 2013
Sony PlayStation 4 Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare [Legacy Edition] 2016
Sony PlayStation 3 Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 2009
Sony PlayStation 3 Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 2011
Nintendo Wii Call of Duty: Modern Warfare Reflex Edition 2009
Nintendo Wii Call of Duty: World At War 2008
Sony PlayStation 3 Call of Duty: World at War 2008
Sega Dreamcast Cannon Spike 2000
Nintendo Switch Capcom Fighting Collection 2022
Sega Dreamcast Capcom vs. SNK 2000
Nintendo GameCube Capcom vs. SNK 2 EO 2002
Sony PlayStation 2 Capcom vs. SNK 2: Mark of the Millenium 2001 2001
Sega Genesis Captain America and the Avengers 1992
Nintendo Switch Captain Toad: Treasure Tracker 2018
Nintendo Wii U Captain Toad: Treasure Tracker 2014
Sony PlayStation 4 Carmageddon: Max Damage 2016
Sega Genesis Castle of Illusion Starring Mickey Mouse 1990
Nintendo Wii Castle of Shikigami III 2008
Sony PlayStation 2 Castle Shikigami II: War of the Worlds 2005
Nintendo 64 Castlevania 1999
Nintendo NES Castlevania [5 Screw] 1987
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Castlevania Double Pack 2006
Nintendo SNES Castlevania Dracula X 1995
Nintendo NES Castlevania II: Simon's Quest [Oval Seal] 1989
Nintendo NES Castlevania III: Dracula's Curse 1990
Nintendo Switch Castlevania: Anniversary Collection 2021
Sega Genesis Castlevania: Bloodlines 1994
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Castlevania: Circle of the Moon 2001
Nintendo DS Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow 2005
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Castlevania: Harmony of Dissonance 2002
Sony PlayStation 2 Castlevania: Lament of Innocence 2003
Nintendo 64 Castlevania: Legacy of Darkness 1999
Sony PlayStation 3 Castlevania: Lords of Shadow 2010
Nintendo 3DS Castlevania: Lords of Shadow - Mirror of Fate 2013
Sony PlayStation 3 Castlevania: Lords of Shadow 2 2014
Sony PlayStation 3 Castlevania: Lords of Shadow [Limited Edition] 2010
Nintendo DS Castlevania: Order Of Ecclesia 2008

Nintendo DS Castlevania: Portrait of Ruin 2006
 Sony PlayStation Castlevania: Symphony of the Night 1997
 Sony PSP Castlevania: The Dracula X Chronicles 2007
 Sony PlayStation 3 Catherine 2011
 Nintendo NES Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers, Disney's 1990
 Nintendo 64 Chopper Attack 1998
 Sony PlayStation Chrono Cross 2000
 Nintendo SNES Chrono Trigger 1995
 Nintendo DS Chrono Trigger 2008
 Commodore Amiga Civilization 1992
 IBM PC Civilization II, Sid Meier's 1996
 IBM PC Civilization IV, Sid Meier's 2006
 IBM PC Civilization V, Sid Meier's 2008
 Nintendo 64 Clay Fighter: Sculptor's Cut 1998
 Sega Genesis Cliffhanger 1993
 Sega Saturn Clockwork Knight 1995
 Sega CD Cobra Command 1992
 Nintendo 3DS Code of Princess [CD & Artbook] 2012
 Microsoft Xbox Colin McRae Rally 04 2003
 Sony PlayStation Colony Wars 1997
 Sony PlayStation Colony Wars: Vengeance 1998
 Sega Genesis Columns III 1994
 IBM PC Command & Conquer: Red Alert [Big Box - Windows 95 & DOS CD-ROM (Stickered)] 1996
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Condemned: Criminal Origins 2005
 Nintendo 64 Conker's Bad Fur Day 2001
 Microsoft Xbox Conker: Live & Reloaded 2005
 Nintendo DS Contra 4 2007
 Nintendo NES Contra [Oval Seal] 1989
 Nintendo SNES Contra III: The Alien Wars 1992
 Sega Genesis Contra: Hard Corps 1994
 Sony PlayStation 2 Contra: Shattered Soldier 2002
 Nintendo Switch Cotton Reboot! 2021
 Sony PlayStation Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back 1997
 Sony PlayStation 4 Crash Bandicoot 4: It's About Time 2020
 Sony PlayStation Crash Bandicoot [Greatest Hits] 1997
 Sony PlayStation 4 Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy 2017
 Sony PlayStation 2 Crash Bandicoot: The Wrath of Cortex 2002
 Sony PlayStation 2 Crash Bandicoot: The Wrath of Cortex [Greatest Hits] 2002
 Sony PlayStation Crash Bandicoot: Warped 1998
 Sony PlayStation 2 Crash Twinsanity 2004
 Sega Dreamcast Crazy Taxi 2000
 Sega Dreamcast Crazy Taxi 2 2001
 Sony PSP Crimson Gem Saga 2009
 Microsoft Xbox Crimson Sea 2002
 Sony PlayStation 2 Crimson Sea 2 2004
 Microsoft Xbox Crimson Skies: High Road to Revenge 2003
 Sony PlayStation 5 Crisis Core -Final Fantasy VII- Reunion 2022
 Sony PSP Crisis Core: Final Fantasy VII 2008
 Nintendo Switch Cruis'n Blast 2021

Nintendo 64 Cruis'n Exotica 2000
Nintendo 64 Cruis'n USA 1996
Nintendo 64 Cruis'n World 1998
IBM PC Crysis 2007
IBM PC Crysis 2 2011
Sony PlayStation 3 Crysis 2 [Limited Edition] 2011
Sony PlayStation 4 Crysis Remastered Trilogy 2021
IBM PC Crysis Warhead 2008
Nintendo Game Boy Color Crystalis 2000
Nintendo NES Crystalis 1990
Nintendo Switch CTR: Crash Team Racing - Nitro-Fueled 2019
IBM PC Curse of Monkey Island, The 1997
Sony PlayStation 4 Danganronpa 1.2 Reload 2017
Sony PlayStation Vita Danganronpa 2: Goodbye Despair 2014
Sony PlayStation Vita Danganronpa: Trigger Happy Havoc 2014
Sony PlayStation 4 Darius Burst: Chronicle Saviours CS 2017
Sega Saturn Darius Gaiden 1996
Nintendo SNES Darius Twin 1991
Sony PlayStation 2 Dark Cloud 2001
Sony PlayStation 2 Dark Cloud 2 2003
Sony PlayStation 3 Dark Souls 2011
Sony PlayStation Darkstalkers 3 1998
Sony PSP Dexter 2006
Sony PlayStation Network Day of the Tentacle: Remastered 2016
Sega Dreamcast Daytona USA 2001
Sega Saturn Daytona USA: Championship Circuit Edition [Net Link Edition] 1996
Nintendo Wii de Blob 2008
Sega Dreamcast Dead or Alive 2 2000
Microsoft Xbox Dead or Alive 3 2001
Microsoft Xbox 360 Dead or Alive 4 2005
Sony PlayStation 3 Dead or Alive 5 Ultimate 2013
Sony PlayStation 4 Dead or Alive 5: Last Round 2015
Sony PlayStation 4 Dead or Alive 6 2019
Microsoft Xbox Dead or Alive Ultimate [Double Disc Collectors Edition] 2004
Microsoft Xbox Dead or Alive Xtreme Beach Volleyball 2003
Microsoft Xbox 360 Dead Rising 2006
Sony PlayStation 3 Dead Space 2008
Sony PlayStation 3 Dead Space 2 [Limited Edition] 2011
Nintendo SNES Death and Return of Superman, The 1994
Sony PlayStation 5 Death Stranding Director's Cut 2021
Microsoft Xbox 360 Deathsmiles [Limited Edition] 2010
Nintendo Switch Deathsmiles I & II 2021
Sony PlayStation Vita Demon Gaze [Limited Edition] 2014
Sony PlayStation Vita Demon Gaze II 2017
Nintendo SNES Demon's Crest 1994
Sony PlayStation 5 Demon's Souls 2020
Sony PlayStation 3 Demon's Souls [Deluxe Edition] 2009
Nintendo SNES Desert Strike: Return to the Gulf 1992
Sony PlayStation 4 Destiny 2014
Sony PlayStation 4 Destiny 2 [Limited Edition] 2017

IBM PC Deus Ex 2000
Sony PlayStation 3 Deus Ex: Human Revolution 2011
Microsoft Xbox Deus Ex: Invisible War 2003
Sony PlayStation 2 Devil May Cry 3: Dante's Awakening 2005
Sony PlayStation 3 Devil May Cry 4 2008
Sony PlayStation 4 Devil May Cry 5 2019
IBM PC Diablo 1998
Sony PlayStation Diablo 1998
IBM PC Diablo Battle Chest 2003
IBM PC Diablo II: Lord of Destruction 2001
Sony PlayStation 3 Diablo III 2013
IBM PC Diablo III [Collector's Edition] 2012
Nintendo Switch Diablo III: Eternal Collection 2018
IBM PC Diablo III: Reaper of Souls 2014
Sony PlayStation 4 Diablo III: Reaper of Souls - Ultimate Evil Edition 2014
Sony PlayStation 3 Diablo III: Ultimate Evil Edition 2014
Nintendo 64 Diddy Kong Racing 1997
Nintendo DS Diddy Kong Racing DS 2007
Sony PlayStation Dino Crisis 1999
Sega Dreamcast Dino Crisis 2000
Sony PlayStation Dino Crisis 2 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Dirge of Cerberus: Final Fantasy VII 2006
Sony PlayStation 5 DIRT 5 2020
Nintendo Switch Disgaea 1 Complete [Rosen Queen's Finest Edition] 2018
Sony PlayStation 2 Disgaea 2: Cursed Memories 2006
Sony PSP Disgaea 2: Dark Hero Days 2009
Sony PlayStation Vita Disgaea 3: Absence of Detention 2012
Sony PlayStation 3 Disgaea 3: Absence of Justice 2008
Sony PlayStation Vita Disgaea 4: A Promise Revisited [NIS America Website Exclusive Limited Edition] 2014
Sony PlayStation 3 Disgaea 4: A Promise Unforgotten 2011
Nintendo Switch Disgaea 4: Complete+ [A Promise of Sardines Edition] 2019
Nintendo Switch Disgaea 5 Complete 2017
Sony PlayStation 4 Disgaea 5: Alliance of Vengeance 2015
Nintendo Switch Disgaea 6: Defiance of Destiny [Unrelenting Edition] 2021
Sony PlayStation 3 Disgaea D2: A Brighter Darkness 2013
Nintendo DS Disgaea DS 2008
Sony PSP Disgaea: Afternoon of Darkness 2007
Sony PlayStation 2 Disgaea: Hour of Darkness 2003
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Disney Sports: Basketball 2002
Sony PlayStation 4 Dissidia Final Fantasy NT [Steelbook Brawler Edition] 2018
Sony PlayStation 4 Divinity: Original Sin 2 - Definitive Edition 2017
Sony PlayStation 4 Divinity: Original Sin Enhanced Edition 2015
Sony PlayStation 3 DmC: Devil May Cry 2013
Sega Saturn DoDonPachi 1997
Sony PlayStation 2 DoDonPachi Dai-Ou-Jou 2003
Microsoft Xbox 360 Dodonpachi Resurrection [Deluxe Edition] 2011
Microsoft Xbox 360 DoDonPachi Saidaioujou 2013
Nintendo 64 Donkey Kong 64 1999
Nintendo NES Donkey Kong Classics [Oval Seal] 1989

Nintendo Game Boy Advance Donkey Kong Country 2003
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Donkey Kong Country 2 2004
Nintendo SNES Donkey Kong Country 2: Diddy's Kong Quest 1995
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Donkey Kong Country 3 2005
Nintendo SNES Donkey Kong Country 3: Dixie Kong's Double Trouble 1996
Nintendo SNES Donkey Kong Country [Made in Mexico] 1994
Nintendo Wii Donkey Kong Country Returns 2010
Nintendo 3DS Donkey Kong Country Returns 3D 2013
Nintendo Switch Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze 2018
Nintendo Wii U Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze [Nintendo Selects] 2016
Nintendo Wii Donkey Kong Jungle Beat [New Play Control!] 2009
Nintendo Game Boy Donkey Kong Land 1995
Nintendo Game Boy Donkey Kong Land 2 [Players Choice - Rerelease] 1998
Sega Saturn DonPachi 1996
IBM PC Doom 2016
Atari Jaguar Doom 1994
IBM PC Doom 1993
Sony PlayStation 4 Doom 2016
Nintendo Switch Doom 2017
Microsoft Xbox Doom 3 2005
IBM PC Doom 3 2004
Sony PlayStation 3 Doom 3: BFG Edition 2012
Nintendo 64 Doom 64 1997
Nintendo NES Double Dragon [Round Seal] 1988
Nintendo NES Double Dragon III: The Sacred Stones 1991
Sega Genesis Dr. Robotnik's Mean Bean Machine 1993
Sony PlayStation 4 Dragon Age: Inquisition 2014
IBM PC Dragon Age: Origins [Collector's Edition] 2009
Sony PlayStation 4 Dragon Ball FighterZ [Day One Edition] 2018
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Dragon Ball Z: Buu's Fury 2004
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Dragon Ball Z: Supersonic Warriors 2004
Sony PlayStation 4 Dragon Ball: Xenoverse 2015
Sony PlayStation 4 Dragon Ball: Xenoverse 2 [Collector's Edition] 2016
Sega Saturn Dragon Force 1996
Nintendo Famicom Dragon Quest 1986
Nintendo Switch Dragon Quest 1+2+3 Collection [English Cover] 2019
Sony PlayStation 4 Dragon Quest Builders [Day One Edition] 2016
Nintendo DS Dragon Quest Heroes: Rocket Slime 2006
Sony PlayStation 4 Dragon Quest Heroes: The World Tree's Woe and the Blight Below [Slime Collector's Edition] 2015
Nintendo Famicom Dragon Quest II 1987
Nintendo Famicom Dragon Quest III 1988
Nintendo Famicom Dragon Quest IV 1990
Nintendo DS Dragon Quest IV: Chapters of the Chosen 2008
Nintendo DS Dragon Quest IX: Sentinels Of The Starry Skies 2010
Nintendo Wii Dragon Quest Swords: The Masked Queen and the Tower of Mirrors 2008
Nintendo DS Dragon Quest V: Hand of the Heavenly Bride 2009
Nintendo DS Dragon Quest VI: Realms of Revelation 2011
Nintendo 3DS Dragon Quest VII: Fragments of the Forgotten Past 2016
Nintendo 3DS Dragon Quest VIII: Journey of the Cursed King 2017

Sony PlayStation 2 Dragon Quest VIII: Journey of the Cursed King 2005
Nintendo Switch Dragon Quest XI S: Echoes of an Elusive Age - Definitive Edition 2019
Sony PlayStation 4 Dragon Quest XI: Echoes of an Elusive Age [Edition of Light] 2018
Sony PlayStation 4 Dragon Star Varnir 2019
Nintendo NES Dragon Warrior 1989
Nintendo NES Dragon Warrior II 1990
Nintendo NES Dragon Warrior III 1991
Nintendo NES Dragon Warrior IV 1992
Nintendo Game Boy Color Dragon Warrior Monsters 2: Tara's Adventure 2001
Sony PlayStation 3 Dragon's Crown 2013
Sega Dreamcast Dreamcast RF Switch [Official Sega] 1999
IBM PC Dreamfall: The Longest Journey [GOTY Edition] 2007
Sony PlayStation 4 DRIVECLUB 2014
Nintendo NES DuckTales 2, Disney's 1993
Nintendo NES DuckTales, Disney's 1989
Nintendo Game Boy DuckTales, Disney's 1990
Nintendo Wii U Ducktales: Remastered [With Collector's Pin] 2012
Sega Saturn Duke Nukem 3D 1997
IBM PC Duke Nukem 3D 1996
Microsoft Xbox One Duke Nukem 3D: 20th Anniversary World Tour [Gamestop Exclusive] 2016
Nintendo 64 Duke Nukem 64 1997
Nintendo 64 Duke Nukem: Zero Hour 1999
IBM PC Dungeon Keeper 1997
IBM PC Dungeon Keeper 2 1999
IBM PC Dungeon Siege 2002
IBM PC Dungeon Siege II 2005
Sony PlayStation 4 Dying Light 2: Stay Human 2022
Nintendo SNES EarthBound 1995
Nintendo SNES Earthworm Jim 1994
Nintendo SNES Earthworm Jim 2 1996
Sega Genesis Ecco the Dolphin 1992
Sega CD Ecco the Dolphin 1993
Sega Dreamcast Ecco the Dolphin: Defender of the Future 2000
Sega CD Ecco: The Tides of Time 1994
Sega Genesis Ecco: The Tides of Time 1994
Sony PlayStation Einhander 1998
Sony PlayStation 4 Elden Ring 2022
Sony PlayStation 5 Elden Ring 2022
IBM PC Elder Scrolls III, The: Morrowind [Game of the Year Edition] 2003
Microsoft Xbox Elder Scrolls III, The: Morrowind [GOTY Edition - Platinum Hits] 2004
Microsoft Xbox 360 Elder Scrolls IV, The: Oblivion [Collector's Edition] 2006
Sony PlayStation 3 Elder Scrolls IV, The: Oblivion [Game of the Year Edition] 2007
IBM PC Elder Scrolls IV, The: Oblivion [Game of the Year Edition] 2007
IBM PC Elder Scrolls V, The: Skyrim 2011
Sony PlayStation 3 Elder Scrolls V, The: Skyrim 2011
Sony PlayStation 4 Elder Scrolls V, The: Skyrim: Special Edition [Best Buy Dragonborn Bundle] 2016
Sony PlayStation Elemental Gearbolt [Black Armor] 1998
Sega Genesis Elemental Master 1993
Sega Mega Drive Eliminate Down 1993

Nintendo DS Elite Beat Agents 2006
Sony PlayStation 3 Enslaved: Odyssey to the West 2010
Nintendo Wii Epic Mickey 2010
IBM PC Escape from Monkey Island 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Espgaluda 2004
Microsoft Xbox 360 Espgaluda II: Black Label 2010
Sega Genesis ESPN Baseball Tonight 1994
Sega CD ESPN Baseball Tonight 1993
Sega CD ESPN National Hockey Night 1994
Sony PlayStation 2 ESPN NFL 2K5 2004
Microsoft Xbox ESPN NFL 2K5 2004
Sony PlayStation 2 ESPN NFL Football 2003
Microsoft Xbox ESPN NHL 2K5 2004
Sega Genesis ESPN Sunday Night NFL 1994
Sega CD ESPN Sunday Night NFL 1994
Nintendo GameCube Eternal Darkness: Sanity's Requiem 2002
Microsoft Xbox 360 Eternal Sonata 2007
Nintendo 3DS Etrian Mystery Dungeon 2015
Nintendo 3DS Etrian Odyssey 2 Untold: The Fafnir Knight 2015
Nintendo 3DS Etrian Odyssey IV: Legends of the Titan 2013
Nintendo 3DS Etrian Odyssey Nexus 2019
Nintendo 3DS Etrian Odyssey Untold: The Millennium Girl 2013
Nintendo 3DS Ever Oasis 2017
Sony PlayStation 4 Everybody's Golf 2017
Nintendo Wii Excite Truck 2006
Nintendo 64 Excitebike 64 2000
Nintendo NES Excitebike [3 Screw - Oval Seal] 1989
Nintendo 64 Extreme-G 1997
Nintendo 64 Extreme-G 2 1998
Nintendo GameCube Extreme-G 3 2001
Nintendo 64 F-1 World Grand Prix 1998
Nintendo SNES F-Zero 1991
Nintendo GameCube F-Zero GX 2003
Nintendo Game Boy Advance F-Zero: GP Legend 2004
IBM PC F.E.A.R. - First Encounter Assault Recon 2005
Nintendo Wii F1 2009 2009
Sony PlayStation 4 F1 2016 2016
Sony PlayStation 5 F1 2021: The Official Videogame 2021
Sega Dreamcast F1 World Grand Prix 2000
Nintendo Game Boy Advance F24: Stealth Fighter 2007
Sega Dreamcast F355 Challenge: Passione Rossa 2000
Microsoft Xbox Fable 2004
Microsoft Xbox 360 Fable II 2008
IBM PC Fallout 3 [Collector's Edition] 2008
Sony PlayStation 3 Fallout 3 [Collector's Edition] 2008
Sony PlayStation 4 Fallout 4 2015
Sony PlayStation 4 Fallout 76 2018
IBM PC Fallout: New Vegas 2010
Sony PlayStation 3 Fallout: New Vegas 2010
Nintendo SNES Family Feud 1993

Sega Master System Fantasy Zone II 1987
Sega Master System Fantasy Zone: The Maze 1988
IBM PC Far Cry 2004
Microsoft Xbox Far Cry: Instincts 2005
Microsoft Xbox Fatal Frame 2002
Sony PlayStation 2 Fatal Frame II: Crimson Butterfly 2003
Microsoft Xbox Fatal Frame II: Crimson Butterfly - Director's Cut 2004
Sega Genesis Fatal Fury 1993
Nintendo SNES Fatal Fury 2 1994
Sega Dreamcast Fatal Fury: Mark of the Wolves 2001
Nintendo SNES Fatal Fury: Special 1994
Sony PlayStation 4 FIFA 15 2014
Sony PlayStation 4 FIFA 16 2015
Sony PlayStation 4 FIFA 17 2016
Sony PlayStation 5 FIFA 21 [NXT LVL Edition] 2021
Nintendo Switch FIFA 22 2021
Sega Genesis FIFA Soccer '97 1996
Sony PlayStation 3 FIFA Soccer 11 2010
Nintendo GameCube FIFA Soccer 2002 2001
Nintendo SNES Fighter's History 1994
Sega Saturn Fighters Megamix 1997
Sega Saturn Fighting Vipers 1996
Nintendo NES Final Fantasy 1990
Sony PlayStation Final Fantasy Anthology 1999
Sony PlayStation Final Fantasy Chronicles 2001
Nintendo Wii Final Fantasy Fables: Chocobo's Dungeon 2008
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Final Fantasy I & II: Dawn of Souls 2004
Nintendo SNES Final Fantasy II 1991
Nintendo DS Final Fantasy III 2006
Nintendo SNES Final Fantasy III 1994
Nintendo DS Final Fantasy IV 2008
Sony PlayStation Final Fantasy IX 2000
Nintendo Game Boy Final Fantasy Legend 1990
Nintendo Game Boy Final Fantasy Legend III 1993
Sony PlayStation Final Fantasy Origins 2003
Sony PlayStation Final Fantasy Tactics 1998
Nintendo DS Final Fantasy Tactics A2: Grimoire of the Rift 2008
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Final Fantasy Tactics Advance 2003
Sony PlayStation 4 Final Fantasy Type-0 HD [Collector's Edition] 2015
Nintendo Super Famicom Final Fantasy V 1992
Sony PlayStation Final Fantasy VII 1997
Nintendo Switch Final Fantasy VII & Final Fantasy VIII Remastered: Twin Pack 2019
Sony PlayStation 5 Final Fantasy VII Remake Intergrade 2021
Sony PlayStation 4 Final Fantasy VII: Remake [Deluxe Edition] 2020
Sony PlayStation Final Fantasy VIII 1999
Sony PlayStation 2 Final Fantasy X 2001
Sony PlayStation 2 Final Fantasy X-2 2003
Sony PlayStation 4 Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster 2015
Sony PlayStation 3 Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster 2014
Nintendo Switch Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster 2019

Sony PlayStation 2 Final Fantasy XII 2006
Nintendo DS Final Fantasy XII: Revenant Wings 2007
Nintendo Switch Final Fantasy XII: The Zodiac Age 2019
Microsoft Xbox 360 Final Fantasy XIII 2010
Sony PlayStation 3 Final Fantasy XIII 2010
Sony PlayStation 3 Final Fantasy XIII-2 [Collector's Edition] 2012
Sony PlayStation 4 Final Fantasy XV [Deluxe Edition] 2016
Sony PlayStation 4 Final Fantasy XV [Royal Edition] 2018
Nintendo GameCube Final Fantasy: Crystal Chronicles 2004
Nintendo SNES Final Fantasy: Mystic Quest 1992
Nintendo DS Final Fantasy: The 4 Heroes of Light 2010
Nintendo SNES Final Fight 1991
Nintendo SNES Final Fight 2 1993
Nintendo SNES Final Fight 3 1996
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Finding Nemo, Disney/Pixar's 2003
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Fire Emblem 2003
Nintendo 3DS Fire Emblem Echoes: Shadows of Valentia [Limited Edition] 2017
Nintendo 3DS Fire Emblem Fates: Birthright 2016
Nintendo 3DS Fire Emblem Fates: Conquest 2016
Nintendo 3DS Fire Emblem: Awakening 2013
Nintendo GameCube Fire Emblem: Path of Radiance 2005
Nintendo Wii Fire Emblem: Radiant Dawn 2007
Nintendo DS Fire Emblem: Shadow Dragon 2009
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Fire Emblem: The Sacred Stones 2005
Nintendo Switch Fire Emblem: Three Houses 2019
Nintendo Switch Fire Emblem: Warriors 2017
Sega Genesis Fire Shark 1990
Nintendo SNES Flashback: The Quest for Identity 1994
Nintendo SNES Flintstones, The 1995
Nintendo NES Flintstones, The: The Surprise at Dinosaur Peak 1993
Nintendo SNES Flintstones, The: The Treasure of Sierra Madrock 1994
Sega Genesis Formula One 1993
Sony PlayStation 3 Formula One Championship Edition 2007
Nintendo Wii Fortune Street 2011
Microsoft Xbox One Forza Horizon 2 2014
Microsoft Xbox One Forza Horizon 3 2016
Microsoft Xbox One Forza Horizon 4 [Ultimate Edition] 2018
Microsoft Xbox Series Forza Horizon 5 2021
Microsoft Xbox Forza Motorsport 2005
Microsoft Xbox 360 Forza Motorsport 2 2007
Microsoft Xbox 360 Forza Motorsport 3 2009
Microsoft Xbox 360 Forza Motorsport 4 2011
Microsoft Xbox One Forza Motorsport 5 2013
Microsoft Xbox One Forza Motorsport 5 [Game of the Year Edition] 2014
Microsoft Xbox One Forza Motorsport 6 [Ten Year Anniversary Edition] 2015
Microsoft Xbox One Forza Motorsport 7 [Ultimate Edition] 2017
Nintendo Wii Fragile Dreams: Farewell Ruins of the Moon 2010
IBM PC Freelancer 2003
Microsoft Xbox Full Spectrum Warrior 2004
IBM PC Gabriel Knight: Sins of the Fathers 1995

Sega Genesis Gaiars 1991
 Sega Saturn Galactic Attack 1995
 Sega Saturn Galaxy Fight 1996
 Nintendo SNES Game Genie 1992
 Gamepark Holdings GP2X Caanoo GamePark Holdings GP2X Caanoo 2010
 Nintendo 64 GameShark 1999
 Sony PlayStation GameShark CDX [Ver 3.3] 1999
 Nintendo NES Gargoyle's Quest II: The Demon Darkness 1992
 Nintendo Game Boy Gargoyle's Quest: Ghosts'n Goblins 1990
 Nintendo NES Gauntlet 1988
 Nintendo NES Gauntlet II 1990
 Sega Dreamcast Gauntlet Legends 2000
 Microsoft Xbox One Gears 5 [Standard Edition] 2019
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Gears of War 2006
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Gears of War 2 2008
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Gears of War 3 2011
 Microsoft Xbox One Gears of War 4 2016
 Microsoft Xbox Series Gears Tactics 2020
 Microsoft Xbox Genma Onimusha 2002
 Sega Saturn Gex 1995
 Nintendo 64 Gex 3: Deep Cover Gecko 1999
 Sony PlayStation Gex 3: Deep Cover Gecko 1999
 Nintendo 64 Gex 64: Enter the Gecko 1999
 Sony PlayStation Gex [Jewel Case] 1999
 Sony PlayStation 4 Ghost Blade HD 2018
 Sony PlayStation 4 Ghost of Tsushima [Collector's Edition] 2020
 Nintendo DS Ghost Trick: Phantom Detective 2011
 Sega Genesis Ghostbusters 1990
 Nintendo NES Ghostbusters [Oval Seal] 1989
 Nintendo Wii Ghostbusters: The Video Game 2009
 Nintendo Game Boy Color Ghosts 'n Goblins 2000
 Sega Master System Ghouls 'n Ghosts 1991
 IBM PC Giants: Citizen Kabuto 2000
 Sega Dreamcast Giga Wing 2000
 Sega Dreamcast Giga Wing 2 2001
 Sony PlayStation 2 GigaWing Generations 2004
 Sony PlayStation 2 God of War 2005
 Sony PlayStation 4 God of War 2018
 Sony PlayStation 3 God of War Collection 2009
 Sony PlayStation 2 God of War II 2007
 Sony PlayStation 3 God of War III 2010
 Sony PlayStation 3 God of War Origins Collection 2011
 Sony PlayStation 5 God of War Ragnarok [Launch Edition] 2022
 Sony PlayStation 3 God of War: Ascension [Collector's Edition] 2013
 Sega Genesis Golden Axe 1989
 Sega Genesis Golden Axe II 1991
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Golden Sun 2001
 Nintendo DS Golden Sun: Dark Dawn 2010
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Golden Sun: The Lost Age 2003
 Nintendo 64 GoldenEye 007 1997

Nintendo Wii Goldeneye 007 2010
Sony PlayStation 5 Gotham Knights [Deluxe Edition] 2022
Nintendo NES Gadius [3 Screw - Round Seal] 1987
Sony PlayStation 2 Gadius III and IV 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Gadius V 2004
Sony PlayStation Gran Turismo 2 1999
Sony PlayStation 2 Gran Turismo 3: A-spec 2001
Sony PlayStation 2 Gran Turismo 4 2005
Sony PlayStation 3 Gran Turismo 5 [XL Edition] 2012
Sony PlayStation 3 Gran Turismo 6 2013
Sony PlayStation 5 Gran Turismo 7 [25th Anniversary Edition] 2022
Sega Genesis Granada 1991
Sony PlayStation 4 Grand Kingdom 2016
Sony PlayStation 2 Grand Theft Auto III 2001
Sony PlayStation 4 Grand Theft Auto V 2014
Sony PlayStation 3 Grand Theft Auto V 2013
Nintendo DS Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars 2009
Sony PlayStation 2 Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas 2004
Microsoft Xbox Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas 2005
Sony PlayStation 2 Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas [Greatest Hits] 2005
IBM PC Grand Theft Auto: Vice City 2003
Sony PlayStation 2 Grand Theft Auto: Vice City 2002
Sony PlayStation Grandia 1999
Sony PlayStation 2 Grandia II 2002
Sega Dreamcast Grandia II 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Grandia III 2006
Sony PlayStation 2 Grandia Xtreme 2002
Sony PlayStation 3 GRID 2008
Sony PlayStation 5 GRID Legends 2022
Sony PlayStation 2 GrimGrimoire 2007
Sony PlayStation 2 Growlanser: Generations [Deluxe] 2004
Sony PlayStation GTA2 1999
Sega Saturn Guardian Heroes 1996
Nintendo NES Guardian Legend, The 1989
Sony PlayStation 5 Guardians of the Galaxy, Marvel's 2021
IBM PC Guild Wars 2 2012
IBM PC Guild Wars [Platinum Edition]
IBM PC Guild Wars: Eye of the North 2007
Sony PlayStation 2 Guilty Gear Isuka 2004
Sony PlayStation 5 Guilty Gear Strive 2021
Sony PlayStation 2 Guilty Gear X 2001
Microsoft Xbox Guilty Gear X2: The Midnight Carnival #Reload 2004
Sony PlayStation 4 Guilty Gear Xrd -SIGN- 2014
Sony PlayStation 4 Guilty Gear Xrd: -Revelator- 2016
Sony PlayStation 2 Guilty Gear XX Accent Core Plus 2009
Nintendo NES Gun.Smoke 1988
Sega Dreamcast Gunbird 2 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Gunbird Special Edition 2005
Sega Genesis Gunstar Heroes 1993
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Gunstar Super Heroes 2005

Microsoft Xbox Half-Life 2 2005
IBM PC Half-Life 2 [Game of the Year Edition] 2005
IBM PC Half-Life 2: Episode One 2006
Microsoft Xbox Halo 2 2004
Microsoft Xbox 360 Halo 3 2007
Microsoft Xbox 360 Halo 3: ODST 2009
Microsoft Xbox 360 Halo 4 2012
Microsoft Xbox One Halo 5: Guardians 2015
Microsoft Xbox Series Halo Infinite 2021
Microsoft Xbox One Halo Wars 2 [Ultimate Edition] 2017
IBM PC Halo: Combat Evolved 2003
Microsoft Xbox Halo: Combat Evolved 2001
Microsoft Xbox 360 Halo: Reach 2010
Microsoft Xbox One Halo: The Master Chief Collection 2014
Nintendo SNES Harvest Moon 1997
Nintendo 64 Harvest Moon 64 1999
Nintendo DS Harvest Moon DS 2007
Nintendo DS Harvest Moon DS: Sunshine Islands 2009
Nintendo GameCube Harvest Moon: A Wonderful Life 2004
Nintendo Wii Harvest Moon: Animal Parade 2009
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Harvest Moon: Friends of Mineral Town 2003
Nintendo Switch Harvest Moon: Mad Dash 2019
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Harvest Moon: More Friends of Mineral Town 2005
Sony PlayStation 2 Haunting Ground 2005
Sony PlayStation 3 Heavy Rain [Director's Cut - Greatest Hits] 2011
Sony PlayStation 4 Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice 2018
IBM PC Hellgate: London 2007
IBM PC Heretic 1994
IBM PC Heretic II 1998
Sega Genesis Herzog Zwei 1990
Nintendo 64 Hexen 1997
Sony PSP Hexyz Force 2010
Nintendo SNES Home Improvement 1994
Nintendo Switch Horizon Chase Turbo 2019
Sony PlayStation 4 Horizon Zero Dawn [Complete Edition] 2017
Sony PlayStation 5 Horizon: Forbidden West [Regalla Edition] 2022
Sony PlayStation 3 Hot Shots Golf: Out of Bounds 2008
Nintendo Wii House of the Dead 2 & 3 Return, The 2008
Nintendo Wii House of the Dead, The: Overkill 2009
Sega Dreamcast Hydro Thunder 1999
Sega Saturn Hyper Duel 1996
Sony PlayStation Vita Hyperdimension Neptunia Re Idea Factory 1
Sony PlayStation Vita Hyperdimension Neptunia Re Idea Factory 1
Sony PlayStation Vita Hyperdimension Neptunia Re Idea Factory 1
Sony PlayStation Vita Hyperdimension Neptunia U: Action Unleashed 2015
Nintendo SNES HyperZone 1991
Nintendo Wii U Hyrule Warriors 2014
Nintendo Switch Hyrule Warriors: Age of Calamity 2020
Nintendo Switch Hyrule Warriors: Definitive Edition 2018
Sony PlayStation 2 Ibara 2005

IBM PC Icewind Dale: The Ultimate Collection 2002
Sony PlayStation 2 ICO 2001
Nintendo GameCube Ikaruga 2003
Nintendo SNES Illusion of Gaia 1994
IBM PC Imperishable Night 2004
IBM PC Incredible Toon Machine, The 1994
Commodore Amiga Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis: The Graphic Adventure 1993
Nintendo NES Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom 1989
Sony PlayStation 3 inFAMOUS 2009
Atari Jaguar Iron Soldier 1994
Nintendo SNES J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings: Volume 1 1994
Microsoft Xbox Jade Empire 2005
Sony PlayStation 2 Jak 3 2004
Sony PlayStation 3 Jak And Daxter Collection 2012
Sony PlayStation 2 Jak and Daxter: The Precursor Legacy 2001
Sony PlayStation 2 Jak II 2003
Commodore Amiga James Pond 2: Codename RoboCod 1991
Sony PSP Jeanne D'Arc 2007
Nintendo SNES Jeopardy! Deluxe Edition 1994
Nintendo 64 Jet Force Gemini 1999
Sega Dreamcast Jet Grind Radio 2000
Nintendo NES Jetsons, The: Cogswell's Caper 1993
Sega Genesis Joe Montana Football 1990
Nintendo SNES John Madden Football '93 [EA Sports Release] 1992
Sony PlayStation 5 JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: All Star Battle R 2022
Nintendo SNES Jungle Strike 1995
Nintendo SNES Jurassic Park 1993
Nintendo SNES Jurassic Park [Majesco Rerelease] 1997
Microsoft Xbox 360 Kameo: Elements of Power 2005
Sony PlayStation 2 Katamari Damacy 2004
Nintendo SNES Ken Griffey Jr. Presents Major League Baseball 1994
Sony PlayStation 3 Ketsui: Kizuna Jigoku Tachi Extra [Limited Edition] 2013
Sony PlayStation 3 Killzone 2 2009
Sony PlayStation 3 Killzone 3 [Helghast Edition] 2011
Sony PlayStation 4 Killzone: Shadow Fall 2013
Sony PlayStation King of Fighters '95, The 1996
Sony PlayStation 4 King of Fighters '97, The: Global Match 2019
Sony PlayStation King of Fighters '99, The 2001
Sony PlayStation 2 King of Fighters 2006, The 2006
Sony PlayStation 2 King of Fighters Collection, The: The Orochi Saga 2008
Sony PlayStation 3 King Of Fighters XIII, The 2011
Sony PlayStation 4 King of Fighters XIV, The 2016
Sony PlayStation 5 King of Fighters XV 2022
Sony PlayStation 4 King of Fighters XV, The 2022
Nintendo SNES King of the Monsters 1992
IBM PC King's Quest Collection [2006] 2006
Sega Master System King's Quest: Quest for the Crown 1989
Nintendo 3DS Kingdom Hearts 3D: Dream Drop Distance 2012
Sony PlayStation 2 Kingdom Hearts [Greatest Hits] 2003
Sony PlayStation 3 Kingdom Hearts HD 1.5 ReMIX [Limited Edition] 2013

Sony PlayStation 2 Kingdom Hearts II [Greatest Hits] 2007
Sony PlayStation 4 Kingdom Hearts III [Deluxe Edition] 2019
Nintendo DS Kingdom Hearts: 358/2 Days 2009
Sony PSP Kingdom Hearts: Birth by Sleep 2010
Sony PlayStation 2 Kingdom Hearts: Re:Chain of Memories 2008
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Kirby & The Amazing Mirror 2004
Nintendo 64 Kirby 64: The Crystal Shards 2000
Nintendo Switch Kirby and the Forgotten Land 2022
Nintendo Wii U Kirby and the Rainbow Curse 2015
Nintendo DS Kirby Mass Attack 2011
Nintendo DS Kirby Squeak Squad 2006
Nintendo Switch Kirby Star Allies 2018
Nintendo SNES Kirby Super Star 1996
Nintendo DS Kirby Super Star Ultra 2008
Nintendo Game Boy Color Kirby Tilt 'n' Tumble 2001
Nintendo 3DS Kirby Triple Deluxe 2014
Nintendo NES Kirby's Adventure 1993
Nintendo SNES Kirby's Avalanche 1995
Nintendo Wii Kirby's Dream Collection: Special Edition 2012
Nintendo Game Boy Kirby's Dream Land 1992
Nintendo Game Boy Kirby's Dream Land 2 [Not for Resale] 1995
Nintendo SNES Kirby's Dream Land 3 1997
Nintendo Wii Kirby's Epic Yarn 2010
Nintendo Wii Kirby's Return to Dreamland 2011
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Kirby: Nightmare in Dream Land 2002
Nintendo 3DS Kirby: Planet Robobot 2016
Nintendo Wii Klonoa 2009
Sony PlayStation 2 Klonoa 2: Lunatea's Veil 2001
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Klonoa: Empire of Dreams 2001
Nintendo DS Knights In The Nightmare 2009
Nintendo SNES Krusty's Super Fun House 1992
Sega Genesis Krusty's Super Fun House 1993
Nintendo Switch L.A. Noire 2017
Sony PlayStation 4 L.A. Noire 2017
Sony PlayStation 3 L.A. Noire 2011
Sony PlayStation 3 L.A. Noire [Best Buy Edition] 2011
Sony PlayStation 2 La Pucelle: Tactics 2004
Sony PlayStation 4 Labyrinth of Refrain: Coven of Dusk 2018
Sega Game Gear Land of Illusion Starring Mickey Mouse 1993
Sega Genesis Landstalker 1993
Sega Mega Drive Langrisser II 1994
Microsoft Xbox 360 Lara Croft Tomb Raider: Legend 2006
Sega Dreamcast Last Blade 2: Heart of the Samurai 2001
Sega Saturn Last Bronx 1997
Sony PlayStation 4 Last Guardian, The [Collector's Edition] 2016
Sony PlayStation 5 Last of Us Part 1, The 2022
Sony PlayStation 3 Last of Us, The 2013
Sony PlayStation 4 Last of Us, The: Part II 2020
Nintendo Wii Last Story, The 2012
Sony PlayStation 2 Legacy of Kain Series, The: Soul Reaver 2 2001

Microsoft Xbox Legacy of Kain: Defiance 2003
 Sega Dreamcast Legacy of Kain: Soul Reaver 2000
 Nintendo NES Legacy of the Wizard 1989
 Sony PlayStation Legend of Dragoon, The 2000
 Sony PlayStation 4 Legend of Heroes, The: Trails From Zero [Deluxe Edition] 2022
 Sony PlayStation 4 Legend of Heroes, The: Trails From Zero [Limited Edition] 2022
 Sony PlayStation Vita Legend of Heroes, The: Trails of Cold Steel 2015
 Sony PlayStation 3 Legend of Heroes, The: Trails of Cold Steel 2015
 Sony PlayStation 4 Legend of Heroes, The: Trails of Cold Steel [Decisive Edition] 2019
 Sony PlayStation 3 Legend of Heroes, The: Trails of Cold Steel II 2016
 Sony PlayStation Vita Legend of Heroes, The: Trails of Cold Steel II 2016
 Sony PlayStation 4 Legend of Heroes, The: Trails of Cold Steel II [Relentless Edition] 2019
 Sony PlayStation 4 Legend of Heroes, The: Trails of Cold Steel III [Early Enrollment Edition] 2019
 Sony PSP Legend of Heroes: Trails in the Sky [Premium Edition] 2011
 Sony PlayStation Legend of Mana 2000
 Sega Saturn Legend of Oasis, The 1996
 Nintendo GameCube Legend of Spyro, The: A New Beginning 2006
 Sony PlayStation 2 Legend of Spyro, The: A New Beginning 2006
 Sony PlayStation 2 Legend of Spyro, The: A New Beginning [Greatest Hits] 2006
 Nintendo Wii Legend of Spyro, The: Dawn of the Dragon 2008
 Sony PlayStation 3 Legend of Spyro, The: Dawn of the Dragon 2008
 Nintendo Wii Legend of Spyro, The: The Eternal Night 2007
 Sony PlayStation 2 Legend of Spyro, The: The Eternal Night 2007
 Nintendo GameCube Legend of Zelda Collector's Edition, The 2003
 Nintendo NES Legend of Zelda, The [Classic Series] 1992
 Nintendo 3DS Legend of Zelda, The: A Link Between Worlds 2013
 Nintendo SNES Legend of Zelda, The: A Link to the Past 1992
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Legend of Zelda, The: A Link to the Past / Four Swords [Player's Choice] 2006
 Nintendo Wii U Legend of Zelda, The: Breath of the Wild 2017
 Nintendo Switch Legend of Zelda, The: Breath of the Wild [Special Edition] 2017
 Nintendo Switch Legend of Zelda, The: Link's Awakening 2019
 Nintendo Game Boy Color Legend of Zelda, The: Link's Awakening DX 1998
 Nintendo 64 Legend of Zelda, The: Majora's Mask 2000
 Nintendo 3DS Legend of Zelda, The: Majora's Mask 3D 2015
 Nintendo 64 Legend of Zelda, The: Ocarina of Time 1998
 Nintendo GameCube Legend of Zelda, The: Ocarina of Time 2003
 Nintendo 3DS Legend of Zelda, The: Ocarina of Time 3D 2011
 Nintendo Game Boy Color Legend of Zelda, The: Oracle of Ages 2001
 Nintendo Game Boy Color Legend of Zelda, The: Oracle of Seasons 2001
 Nintendo DS Legend Of Zelda, The: Phantom Hourglass 2007
 Nintendo Wii Legend of Zelda, The: Skyward Sword [Music CD] 2011
 Nintendo DS Legend Of Zelda, The: Spirit Tracks 2009
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Legend of Zelda, The: The Minish Cap 2005
 Nintendo GameCube Legend of Zelda, The: The Wind Waker [Made in USA] 2003
 Nintendo Wii U Legend of Zelda, The: The Wind Waker HD 2013
 Nintendo 3DS Legend of Zelda, The: Tri Force Heroes 2015
 Nintendo GameCube Legend of Zelda, The: Twilight Princess 2006
 Nintendo Wii Legend of Zelda, The: Twilight Princess [Nintendo Selects] 2011

Nintendo Wii U Legend of Zelda, The: Twilight Princess HD [Amiibo Bundle] 2016
 Nintendo Wii LEGO Indiana Jones: The Original Adventures 2008
 Nintendo Wii LEGO Star Wars: The Complete Saga 2007
 IBM PC Lemmings 1991
 Commodore Amiga Lemmings + Oh No! More Lemmings [Special Limited Edition - Double Pack] 1991
 Nintendo NES Life Force 1988
 Sega Genesis Lightening Force: Quest for the Darkstar 1992
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Lightning Returns: Final Fantasy XIII 2014
 Sony PlayStation 3 Lightning Returns: Final Fantasy XIII 2014
 Sony PlayStation Lode Runner 1998
 Nintendo NES Lode Runner [3 Screw] 1987
 IBM PC Longest Journey, The [x2 CD-ROM version] 2000
 Nintendo SNES Lost Vikings, The 1993
 Sony PlayStation Lost World, The: Jurassic Park 1997
 Nintendo SNES Lufia and the Fortress of Doom 1993
 Nintendo SNES Lufia II: Rise of the Sinistrals 1996
 Nintendo DS Lufia: Curse of the Sinistrals 2010
 Nintendo 3DS Luigi's Mansion 2018
 Nintendo GameCube Luigi's Mansion 2001
 Nintendo Switch Luigi's Mansion 3 2019
 Nintendo 3DS Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon 2013
 Sony PSP Lumines 2005
 Sony PlayStation Vita Lumines: Electronic Symphony 2012
 Sony PlayStation Lunar 2: Eternal Blue Complete [B Part Number (Support Cast)] 2000
 Nintendo DS Lunar Knights 2007
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Lunar Legend 2002
 Sega CD Lunar: Eternal Blue 1995
 Sony PSP Lunar: Silver Star Harmony [Premium Edition] 2010
 Sony PlayStation Lunar: Silver Star Story Complete [D Part Number (Fan Edition)]
 Sega CD Lunar: The Silver Star [1-Blue Background Disc] 1993
 Nintendo 64 Madden Football 64 1997
 Nintendo SNES Madden NFL '95 1994
 Sony PlayStation 3 Madden NFL 09 2008
 Nintendo Wii Madden NFL 11 2010
 Nintendo Wii U Madden NFL 13 2012
 Sony PlayStation 4 Madden NFL 16 2015
 Sony PlayStation 4 Madden NFL 17 2016
 Nintendo 64 Madden NFL 2001 2000
 Microsoft Xbox One Madden NFL 21 2020
 Sony PlayStation 5 Madden NFL 22 2021
 Nintendo Wii MadWorld 2009
 Sega Saturn Magic Knight Rayearth [Fuu Disc] 1998
 Nintendo Super Famicom Magical Pop'n 1995
 Nintendo SNES Magical Quest Starring Mickey Mouse, The 1992
 Sony PlayStation 2 Magna Carta: Tears of Blood - Deluxe Box Set 2005
 Sony PlayStation 2 Makai Kingdom: Chronicles of the Sacred Tome 2005
 Sony PlayStation 3 Mamoru-kun wa Norowarete Shimatta! 2011
 Sony PlayStation 2 Mana Khemia 2: Fall of Alchemy [Premium Box] 2009
 Nintendo NES Maniac Mansion 1990

IBM PC Maniac Mansion: Day of the Tentacle [3.5 Floppy Disk] 1993
IBM PC Maniac Mansion: Day of the Tentacle [CD-ROM] 1993
Sega Genesis Marble Madness 1991
Nintendo DS Mario & Luigi: Bowser's Inside Story 2009
Nintendo 3DS Mario & Luigi: Bowser's Inside Story + Bowser Jr's Journey 2019
Nintendo 3DS Mario & Luigi: Dream Team 2013
Nintendo 3DS Mario & Luigi: Paper Jam 2016
Nintendo DS Mario & Luigi: Partners in Time 2005
Nintendo 3DS Mario & Luigi: Superstar Saga + Bowser's Minions 2017
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Mario & Luigi: Superstar Saga [Player's Choice] 2006
Nintendo Switch Mario + Rabbids Kingdom Battle 2017
Nintendo Switch Mario + Rabbids: Sparks of Hope 2022
Nintendo 64 Mario Golf 1999
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Mario Golf: Advance Tour 2004
Nintendo GameCube Mario Golf: Toadstool Tour 2003
Nintendo 3DS Mario Golf: World Tour 2014
Nintendo 64 Mario Kart 64 1997
Nintendo 3DS Mario Kart 7 2011
Nintendo Wii U Mario Kart 8 2014
Nintendo Switch Mario Kart 8 Deluxe 2017
Nintendo DS Mario Kart DS 2005
Nintendo Wii Mario Kart Wii [Wheel Bundle] 2008
Nintendo GameCube Mario Kart: Double Dash!! 2003
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Mario Kart: Super Circuit 2001
Nintendo Wii U Mario Party 10 [Mario Amiibo Bundle] 2015
Nintendo GameCube Mario Party 4 2002
Nintendo GameCube Mario Party 5 2003
Nintendo GameCube Mario Party 6 2004
Nintendo GameCube Mario Party 7 2005
Nintendo Wii Mario Party 8 2007
Nintendo Wii Mario Party 9 2012
Nintendo Switch Mario Party Superstars 2021
Nintendo 3DS Mario Party: Island Tour [Nintendo Selects] 2016
Nintendo 3DS Mario Party: Star Rush 2016
Nintendo GameCube Mario Power Tennis 2004
Nintendo Wii Mario Power Tennis [Nintendo Selects] 2012
Nintendo Wii Mario Strikers Charged 2007
Nintendo 64 Mario Tennis 2000
Nintendo Switch Mario Tennis Aces 2018
Nintendo 3DS Mario Tennis Open 2012
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Mario Tennis: Power Tour 2005
Nintendo Wii U Mario Tennis: Ultra Smash 2015
Sega Dreamcast Mars Matrix 2001
Sony PlayStation Marvel Super Heroes Vs. Street Fighter 1999
Sega Dreamcast Marvel vs. Capcom 2 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Marvel vs. Capcom 2 2002
Sony PlayStation Marvel vs. Capcom: Clash of Super Heroes 2000
Sega Dreamcast Marvel vs. Capcom: Clash of Super Heroes 1999
Nintendo Wii Marvel: Ultimate Alliance 2 2009
Nintendo Switch Mary Skelter 2 2020

Sony PlayStation Vita Mary Skelter: Nightmares 2017
IBM PC Mass Effect 2008
Microsoft Xbox 360 Mass Effect 2007
Sony PlayStation 3 Mass Effect 2 2011
IBM PC Mass Effect 2 2010
Microsoft Xbox 360 Mass Effect 2 2010
Sony PlayStation 3 Mass Effect 3 2012
IBM PC Mass Effect 3 2012
Microsoft Xbox MechAssault 2002
Microsoft Xbox MechAssault 2: Lone Wolf [Limited Edition] 2005
IBM PC Medal of Honor: Allied Assault 2002
IBM PC Medal of Honor: Allied Assault - Spearhead 2002
Nintendo NES Mega Man 2 1989
Nintendo NES Mega Man 3 1990
Nintendo NES Mega Man 4 1992
Nintendo NES Mega Man [3 Screw - Oval Seal] 1991
Sony PlayStation 2 Mega Man Anniversary Collection 2004
Nintendo 3DS Mega Man Legacy Collection 2016
Nintendo Switch Mega Man Legacy Collection 1+2 2018
Sony PlayStation Mega Man Legends 2 2000
Nintendo SNES Mega Man X [Majesco Rerelease] 1997
Sony PlayStation 2 Mega Man X Collection 2006
Sony PlayStation 4 Mega Man X Legacy Collection 1 + 2 2018
Nintendo Switch Mega Man X Legacy Collection 1 + 2 2018
Nintendo SNES Mega Man X2 1995
Sony PlayStation Mega Man X4 1997
Sony PlayStation Mega Man X5 2000
Sony PlayStation Mega Man X6 2001
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Mega Man Zero 3 2004
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Mega Man Zero 4 2005
Nintendo DS Mega Man Zero Collection 2010
Nintendo DS Mega Man ZX 2006
Nintendo DS Mega Man ZX Advent 2007
Sega Mega Drive Mega Man: The Wily Wars 1994
Sony PlayStation 4 Megadimension Neptunia VII 2016
Microsoft Xbox Mercenaries: Playground of Destruction 2005
Nintendo NES Metal Gear [Oval Seal] 1989
Sony PlayStation Metal Gear Solid 1998
Nintendo Game Boy Color Metal Gear Solid 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty 2001
Microsoft Xbox Metal Gear Solid 2: Substance 2002
Sony PlayStation 2 Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater 2004
Sony PlayStation 2 Metal Gear Solid 3: Subsistence 2006
Sony PlayStation 3 Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots 2008
Sony PlayStation 3 Metal Gear Solid HD Collection 2011
Sony PlayStation 4 Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain 2015
Sony PSP Metal Gear Solid: Peace Walker 2010
Sony PSP Metal Gear Solid: Portable Ops 2006
Nintendo GameCube Metal Gear Solid: The Twin Snakes 2004
Nintendo DS Metal Slug 7 2008

Sony PlayStation 2 Metal Slug Anthology 2007
 Nintendo Wii Metal Slug Anthology 2006
 Sony PlayStation Metal Slug X 2001
 Nintendo NES Metal Storm [Collector's Edition - Metallic Silver] 2020
 Nintendo NES Metal Storm [Rerelease] 2019
 Nintendo SNES Metal Warriors 1995
 Nintendo NES Metroid [3 Screw - Oval Seal 
 Nintendo Game Boy Metroid II: Return of Samus 1991
 Nintendo GameCube Metroid Prime 2002
 Nintendo GameCube Metroid Prime 2: Echoes 2004
 Nintendo Wii Metroid Prime 3: Corruption 2007
 Nintendo Wii Metroid Prime Trilogy [Collector's Edition] 2009
 Nintendo DS Metroid Prime: Hunters 2006
 Nintendo DS Metroid Prime: Hunters [Wifi Rebranding] 2006
 Nintendo Switch Metroid: Dread 2021
 Nintendo 3DS Metroid: Samus Returns 2017
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Metroid: Zero Mission 2004
 Sega Dreamcast Metropolis Street Racer 2001
 Nintendo SNES Michael Andretti's Indy Car Challenge 1994
 Sega Genesis Michael Jackson's Moonwalker 1990
 Sega CD Mickey Mania: The Timeless Adventures of Mickey Mouse 1994
 Nintendo SNES Mickey Mania: The Timeless Adventures of Mickey Mouse 1994
 Nintendo NES Mickey Mousecapade [Round Seal] 1988
 Commodore Amiga MicroProse Formula One Grand Prix 1992
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Microsoft Xbox 360 [Elite] 2007
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Microsoft Xbox 360 Wireless Controller [Black] 2007
 Microsoft Xbox Microsoft Xbox [Halo Special Edition Green Console] 2003
 Microsoft Xbox One Microsoft Xbox One [Assassin's Creed Unity Bundle + Kinect] 2014
 Microsoft Xbox One Microsoft Xbox One S [2TB] 2016
 Sony PlayStation 2 Midnight Club 2000
 Sony PlayStation 2 Midnight Club II 2003
 Sony PlayStation 3 Midnight Club: Los Angeles 2008
 Nintendo DS Might & Magic: Clash of Heroes 2009
 Nintendo SNES Mighty Morphin Power Rangers 1994
 Nintendo SNES Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Fighting Edition 1995
 Nintendo SNES Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers: The Movie 1995
 Sony PlayStation Misadventures of Tron Bonne, The 2000
 Nintendo 64 Mischief Makers 1997
 Atari Jaguar Missile Command 3D 1995
 Sony PlayStation 4 MLB The Show 16 2016
 Sony PlayStation 5 MLB The Show 21 2021
 Microsoft Xbox Series MLB The Show 21 2021
 IBM PC Monkey Island 2: LeChuck's Revenge [3.5"] 1991
 Commodore Amiga Monkey Island 2: LeChuck's Revenge [Kixx XL] 1993
 Sony PlayStation Network Monkey Island 2: LeChuck's Revenge: Special Edition 2010
 IBM PC Monkey Island 2: LeChuck's Revenge [Special Edition] 2010
 Sony PlayStation 3 Monkey Island Special Edition Collection 2011
 IBM PC Monkey Island: Special Edition Collection 2011
 Nintendo Wii Monster Hunter 3: Tri 2010
 Nintendo Wii U Monster Hunter 3: Ultimate 2013

Nintendo 3DS Monster Hunter 4: Ultimate 2015
Nintendo Switch Monster Hunter Rise [Deluxe Edition] 2021
Nintendo Switch Monster Hunter Stories 2: Wings of Ruin 2021
Nintendo 3DS Monster Hunter: Generations 2016
Nintendo Switch Monster Hunter: Generations Ultimate 2018
Nintendo 3DS Monster Hunter: Stories 2017
Sony PlayStation 4 Monster Hunter: World 2018
Nintendo SNES Mortal Kombat 1993
Sony PlayStation 4 Mortal Kombat 11: Ultimate 2021
Sony PlayStation Mortal Kombat 3 [Jewel Case] 1996
Sony PlayStation 3 Mortal Kombat [Komplete Edition - Greatest Hits] 2012
Sega Dreamcast Mortal Kombat Gold 1999
Nintendo SNES Mortal Kombat II 1994
Sega Game Gear Mortal Kombat II 1994
Nintendo 64 Mortal Kombat Trilogy 1997
Sony PlayStation 4 Mortal Kombat X [Kollector's Edition By Coarse] 2015
Sony PlayStation 4 Mortal Kombat XL 2016
Microsoft Xbox Mortal Kombat: Deadly Alliance 2002
Microsoft Xbox Mortal Kombat: Deception [Platinum Hits] 2005
Microsoft Xbox Mortal Kombat: Shaolin Monks 2005
Microsoft Xbox MotoGP 2002
Microsoft Xbox 360 MotoGP '06 2006
Microsoft Xbox MotoGP 2 2003
Sony PlayStation 3 MotorStorm 2007
Sony PlayStation 3 MotorStorm: Apocalypse 2011
Sega Saturn Mr. Bones 1996
Microsoft Xbox 360 Muchi Muchi Pork! & Pink Sweets 2011
Nintendo 64 Multi Racing Championship 1997
Nintendo Wii Muramasa: The Demon Blade 2009
Sega Genesis MUSA: Metallic Uniframe Super Hybrid Armor 1991
Sony PlayStation 2 Mushihime-sama 2005
Microsoft Xbox 360 Mushihime-sama Futari Ver 1.5 [Platinum Collection] 2010
Sega Genesis Mutant League Football 1993
Microsoft Xbox Myst III: Exile 2002
Microsoft Xbox Myst IV: Revelation 2004
IBM PC Myst V: End of Ages 2005
Nintendo 64 Namco Museum 64 1999
Nintendo 64 NASCAR 99 1998
Microsoft Xbox NASCAR Thunder 2003 2002
Sony PlayStation 4 NBA 2K17 2016
Nintendo SNES NBA Hang Time 1996
Sony PlayStation 3 NBA Jam 2010
Nintendo SNES NBA Jam 1994
Sega Genesis NBA Jam 1994
Nintendo SNES NBA Live 96 1995
Sega Genesis NBA Live 96 1995
Nintendo GameCube NCAA College Basketball 2K3 2002
IBM PC Need for Speed III: Hot Pursuit 1998
Nintendo Wii Need for Speed: Carbon 2006
Sony PlayStation 3 Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit [Limited Edition] 2010

Sony PlayStation 4 Need For Speed: Hot Pursuit: Remastered 2020
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Need for Speed: Most Wanted 2005
 SNK Neo Geo X Neo Geo X Gold [Limited Edition] 2012
 SNK Neo Geo X NEO-GEO X Classics Volume 1: Metal Slug 2/Sengoku/Top Hunter Roody & Cathy 2013
 SNK Neo Geo X NEO-GEO X Classics Volume 2: Samurai Shodown 3/Savage Reign/Super Sidekicks 3 2013
 SNK Neo Geo X NEO-GEO X Classics Volume 3: King of Fighters '96/Blazing Star/Kizuna Encounter 2013
 SNK Neo Geo X NEO-GEO X Classics Volume 4: Garou Mark of the Wolves/Shock Troopers/World Heroes 2 Jet 2013
 Stand-Alone Handhelds NEOGEO Mini 2018
 Multiple Consoles NES Classic Controller 2016
 Plug & Play TV Games NES Classic Edition 2016
 IBM PC Neverwinter Nights 2 Gold 2008
 IBM PC Neverwinter Nights Platinum 2004
 Nintendo Switch Neverwinter Nights: Enhanced Edition 2019
 Nintendo New Nintendo 3DS new Nintendo 3DS [Animal Crossing Happy Home Designer Edition] 2015
 Nintendo New Nintendo 3DS new Nintendo 3DS [Super Mario 3D Land & Faceplate Bundle] 2016
 Nintendo New Nintendo 3DS new Nintendo 3DS [Super Mario Black Edition] 2016
 Nintendo DS New Super Mario Bros. 2006
 Nintendo 3DS New Super Mario Bros. 2 2012
 Nintendo Wii U New Super Mario Bros. U 2012
 Nintendo Wii New Super Mario Bros. Wii 2009
 Sega Dreamcast Next Tetris, The: On-Line Edition 2000
 Sega Dreamcast NFL 2K 1999
 Sega Dreamcast NFL 2K1 2000
 Nintendo SNES NHL '96 1995
 Sony PlayStation 3 Ni no Kuni: Wrath of the White Witch 2013
 Sony PlayStation 4 Nickelodeon Kart Racers 2018
 Nintendo Switch Nickelodeon Kart Racers 2: Grand Prix 2020
 Sony PlayStation 4 Nickelodeon Kart Racers 2: Grand Prix 2020
 Nintendo Switch Nickelodeon Kart Racers 3: Slime Speedway 2022
 Sony PlayStation 4 Nier: Automata [Day One Edition] 2017
 Sega Saturn Night Warriors: Darkstalkers' Revenge 1996
 Nintendo 64 Nightmare Creatures 1998
 Sega Dreamcast Nightmare Creatures II 2000
 Sega Saturn NiGHTS into Dreams... 1996
 Nintendo Wii NiGHTS: Journey of Dreams 2007
 Nintendo NES Ninja Gaiden 1989
 Microsoft Xbox Ninja Gaiden 2004
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Ninja Gaiden II 2008
 Nintendo NES Ninja Gaiden II: The Dark Sword of Chaos 1990
 Nintendo NES Ninja Gaiden III: The Ancient Ship of Doom 1991
 Sony PlayStation 3 Ninja Gaiden Sigma 2007
 Nintendo SNES Ninja Gaiden Trilogy 1995
 Nintendo 3DS Nintendo 3DS [Aqua Blue] 2011
 Nintendo 3DS Nintendo 3DS [Flame Red with Super Mario 3D Land] 2011

Nintendo 3DS Nintendo 3DS XL 2012
 Nintendo 3DS Nintendo 3DS XL [Persona Q Edition] 2014
 Nintendo 64 Nintendo 64 1996
 Nintendo 64 Nintendo 64 [Gold Control Deck With 2 Controllers - Toys 'R' Us Limited Edition] 1997
 Nintendo DS Nintendo DS Lite [New Super Mario Bros. Bundle] 2008
 Nintendo NES Nintendo Entertainment System [Control Deck] 1986
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Nintendo Game Boy Advance SP [Cobalt Blue] 2003
 Nintendo GameCube Nintendo GameCube [Super Mario Sunshine Pak] 2002
 Nintendo Switch Nintendo Switch [Neon Red / Neon Blue Joy-Con] 2017
 Nintendo Wii Nintendo Wii [New Super Mario Bros. Wii & Music CD Bundle] 2012
 Nintendo Wii U Nintendo Wii U [Super Mario 3D World Deluxe Set] 2014
 Nintendo DS Nintendogs: Lab & Friends 2005
 Nintendo Wii No More Heroes 2008
 Nintendo Switch No More Heroes 2: Desperate Struggle 2021
 Nintendo Wii No More Heroes 2: Desperate Struggle 2010
 Nintendo Switch No More Heroes 3 2021
 Sony PlayStation 3 No More Heroes: Heroes' Paradise 2011
 Sony PlayStation Nuclear Strike 1997
 Nintendo 64 Nuclear Strike 64 1999
 Nintendo Switch Octopath Traveler 2018
 Sony PlayStation 2 Odin Sphere 2007
 Sony PlayStation 4 Odin Sphere Leifthrasir [Storybook Edition] 2016
 Nintendo 64 Off Road Challenge 1998
 Nintendo 64 Ogre Battle 64: Person of Lordly Caliber 2000
 Nintendo SNES Ogre Battle: The March of the Black Queen 1994
 Sony PlayStation Ogre Battle: The March of the Black Queen [Limited Edition] 1997
 Nintendo Wii Okami 2008
 Sony PlayStation 2 Okami 2006
 Sony PlayStation 4 Okami HD 2017
 Sony PlayStation 4 One Piece: Pirate Warriors 3 2015
 Nintendo Wii One Piece: Unlimited Cruise Episode 1 - The Treasure Beneath The Waves 2009
 Nintendo Wii One Piece: Unlimited Cruise Episode 2: Awakening of a Hero 2009
 Sony PlayStation 2 Onimusha 2: Samurai's Destiny 2002
 Sony PlayStation 2 Onimusha 3: Demon Siege 2004
 IBM PC Orange Box, The 2007
 Sony PlayStation 3 Orange Box, The 2007
 Nintendo Switch Ori and the Will of the Wisps 2020
 Sega Master System Out Run 1987
 Sony PlayStation 4 Outer Worlds, The 2019
 Sega Genesis OutRun 1991
 Sega Master System OutRun 3D 1990
 Sega Genesis OutRunners 1994
 Nintendo SNES Pac-Man 2: The New Adventures 1994
 Sega Saturn Panzer Dragoon 1995
 Nintendo Switch Panzer Dragoon [Classic Edition] 2020
 Microsoft Xbox Panzer Dragoon Orta 2003
 Sega Saturn Panzer Dragoon Saga 1998
 Sega Saturn Panzer Dragoon Zwei 1996
 Nintendo 64 Paper Mario 2001

Nintendo Wii U Paper Mario: Color Splash 2016
Nintendo 3DS Paper Mario: Sticker Star 2012
Nintendo Switch Paper Mario: The Origami King 2020
Nintendo GameCube Paper Mario: The Thousand-Year Door 2004
Nintendo NES Paperboy [Oval Seal] 1989
Sony PlayStation Parasite Eve 1998
Sony PlayStation Parasite Eve II 2000
Nintendo 64 Perfect Dark 2000
Microsoft Xbox 360 Perfect Dark Zero 2005
Sony PlayStation Persona 1996
Sony PlayStation Persona 2: Eternal Punishment 2000
Sony PlayStation 3 Persona 4 Arena 2012
Sony PlayStation 3 Persona 4 Arena Ultimax 2014
Sony PlayStation Vita Persona 4 Golden 2012
Sony PlayStation Vita Persona 4: Dancing All Night [Disco Fever Edition] 2015
Sony PlayStation 4 Persona 5 [Steelbook Edition] 2017
Sony PlayStation 4 Persona 5 Strikers [Bonus Content Code Included] 2021
Sony PlayStation Vita Persona 5: Dancing Star Night 2018
Sony PlayStation 4 Persona 5: Strikers 2021
Nintendo 3DS Persona Q2: New Cinema Labyrinth [Launch Edition] 2019
Nintendo 3DS Persona Q: Shadow of the Labyrinth 2014
Sega Master System Phantasy Star 1988
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Phantasy Star Collection 2002
Sega Genesis Phantasy Star II 1990
Sega Genesis Phantasy Star III: Generations of Doom 1991
Sega Genesis Phantasy Star IV 1994
Sega Dreamcast Phantasy Star Online 2001
Sony PlayStation 2 Phantom Brave 2004
Microsoft Xbox Phantom Dust 2005
Sega Genesis Phelios 1990
Nintendo DS Picross 3D 2010
Nintendo Wii U Pikmin 3 [Nintendo Selects] 2016
Nintendo DS Planet Puzzle League 2007
Nintendo Switch PlayStand 2017
Nintendo Game Boy Color Pocket Bomberman 1999
Nintendo Wii U Pokk❖n Tournament 2016
Nintendo Switch Pokk❖n Tournament DX 2017
Nintendo 3DS Pok❖mon Alpha Sapphire 2014
Nintendo DS Pok❖mon Black Version 2011
Nintendo DS Pok❖mon Black Version 2 2012
Nintendo Game Boy Pok❖mon Blue Version 1998
Nintendo GameCube Pok❖mon Colosseum [Player's Choice] 2005
Nintendo DS Pok❖mon Conquest 2012
Nintendo Game Boy Color Pok❖mon Crystal Version 2001
Nintendo DS Pok❖mon Diamond Version 2007
Nintendo Game Boy Color Pok❖mon Gold Version 2000
Nintendo DS Pok❖mon HeartGold Version [Bonus Figure and Walmart Exclusive Pok❖walker Holder] 2010
Nintendo DS Pok❖mon HeartGold Version [Pok❖walker Bundle] 2010
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Pok❖mon LeafGreen Version 2004

Nintendo Switch Pok  mon Legends: Arceus 2022
Nintendo 3DS Pok  mon Moon 2016
Nintendo DS Pok  mon Mystery Dungeon: Blue Rescue Team 2006
Nintendo DS Pok  mon Mystery Dungeon: Explorers of Darkness 2008
Nintendo DS Pok  mon Mystery Dungeon: Explorers of Sky 2009
Nintendo DS Pok  mon Mystery Dungeon: Explorers of Time 2008
Nintendo Switch Pok  mon Mystery Dungeon: Rescue Team DX 2020
Nintendo 3DS Pok  mon Omega Ruby 2014
Nintendo DS Pok  mon Pearl Version 2007
Nintendo Game Boy Color Pok  mon Pinball 1999
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Pok  mon Pinball: Ruby & Sapphire [Not for Resale] 2003
Nintendo DS Pok  mon Platinum Version 2009
Nintendo 3DS Pok  mon Rumble Blast 2011
Nintendo Wii U Pok  mon Rumble U: Pikachu 2013
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Pok  mon Sapphire Version 2003
Nintendo 3DS Pok  mon Silver Version 2017
Nintendo DS Pok  mon SoulSilver Version 2010
Nintendo 3DS Pok  mon Sun 2016
Nintendo 3DS Pok  mon Super Mystery Dungeon 2015
Nintendo Switch Pok  mon Sword 2019
Nintendo Game Boy Color Pok  mon Trading Card Game 2000
Nintendo 3DS Pok  mon Ultra Moon 2017
Nintendo DS Pok  mon White Version 2 2012
Nintendo 3DS Pok  mon X 2013
Nintendo 3DS Pok  mon Y 2013
Nintendo Game Boy Pok  mon Yellow Version 1999
Nintendo Switch Pok  mon: Brilliant Diamond 2021
Nintendo Switch Pok  mon: Shining Pearl 2021
Nintendo Wii Pok  Park Wii: Pikachu's Adventure 2010
Sega CD Popful Mail [Corrected UPC] 1995
Nintendo SNES Populous 1991
Nintendo NES Power Blade 2 1992
Sega Saturn Power Slave 1996
Sega Dreamcast Power Stone 1999
Sega Dreamcast Power Stone 2 2000
Sony PlayStation Powerslave 1997
Microsoft Xbox 360 Prey 2006
Sony PlayStation 3 Prince of Persia 2008
Nintendo Game Boy Color Prince of Persia 1999
Nintendo NES Prince of Persia 1992
Sega Dreamcast Prince of Persia: Arabian Nights 2000
Microsoft Xbox Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time 2003
Microsoft Xbox Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones 2005
Sega Saturn Princess Crown 1997
Nintendo Switch Pro Controller 2017
Nintendo NES Pro Sport Hockey 1993
Nintendo 3DS Professor Layton and the Azran Legacy 2014
Nintendo 3DS Professor Layton and the Miracle Mask 2012
Nintendo 3DS Professor Layton vs. Phoenix Wright Ace Attorney 2014
Sony PlayStation 4 Project Cars 2015

Microsoft Xbox Project Gotham Racing 2001
Microsoft Xbox Project Gotham Racing 2 2003
Microsoft Xbox 360 Project Gotham Racing 3 2005
Sega Dreamcast Project Justice 2001
Nintendo 3DS Project X Zone 2 2016
Nintendo 3DS Project X Zone [Limited Edition] 2013
Microsoft Xbox Project: Snowblind 2005
Sega Master System Psycho Fox [Psyco Fox] 1990
Sony PlayStation 4 Psychonauts 2019
Sony PlayStation 4 Puyo Puyo Tetris 2017
Nintendo Switch Puyo Puyo Tetris [Keychain & Decal Bundle] 2017
Sega Dreamcast Q*bert 2000
Nintendo 64 Quake 1998
Microsoft Xbox 360 Quake 4 2005
IBM PC Quake 4 2005
Nintendo 64 Quake II 1999
Sony PlayStation Quake II 1999
Sony PlayStation 2 Quake III: Revolution 2001
Sega Master System R-Type 1988
Sony PlayStation R-Type Delta 1999
Nintendo Game Boy Color R-Type DX 1999
Sony PlayStation 2 R-Type Final 2004
Sony PlayStation 4 R-Type Final 2 [Inaugural Flight Edition] 2021
Nintendo SNES R-Type III: The Third Lightning 1994
Nintendo NES R.B.I. Baseball 2 1990
Sega Genesis R.B.I. Baseball 3 1991
Nintendo NES R.C. Pro-AM 1988
Sony PlayStation 4 Rabbids Invasion 2014
Nintendo DS Radiant Historia 2011
Nintendo 3DS Radiant Historia: Perfect Chronology [Launch Edition] 2018
Sega Saturn Radiant Silvergun 1998
Sony PlayStation 2 Radiata Stories 2005
Microsoft Xbox 360 Raiden Fighters Aces 2009
Sony PlayStation 2 Raiden III 2007
Microsoft Xbox 360 Raiden IV 2009
Nintendo Switch Raiden IV x Mikado Remix 2021
Sony PlayStation Raiden Project, The [Long Box Clear] 1995
Nintendo SNES Raiden Trad 1992
Microsoft Xbox One Raiden V 2016
Sony PlayStation 4 Raiden V: Director's Cut 2017
Microsoft Xbox RalliSport Challenge 2002
Microsoft Xbox RalliSport Challenge 2 2004
Sega Genesis Rastan Saga II 1991
Sony PlayStation 2 Ratchet & Clank 2002
Sony PlayStation 4 Ratchet & Clank 2016
Sony PlayStation 3 Ratchet & Clank Future: A Crack In Time 2009
Sony PlayStation 3 Ratchet & Clank Future: Tools of Destruction 2007
Sony PlayStation 3 Ratchet & Clank: All 4 One 2011
Sony PlayStation 3 Ratchet & Clank: All 4 One 2011
Sony PlayStation 2 Ratchet & Clank: Going Commando 2003

Sony PlayStation 3 Ratchet & Clank: Into the Nexus 2013
Sony PlayStation 5 Ratchet & Clank: Rift Apart [Launch Edition] 2021
Sony PSP Ratchet & Clank: Size Matters 2007
Sony PlayStation 3 Ratchet & Clank: Tools of Destruction 2007
Sony PlayStation 2 Ratchet & Clank: Up Your Arsenal 2004
Sony PlayStation RayCrisis: Series Termination 2000
Sega Saturn Rayman 1995
Nintendo Game Boy Color Rayman 2000
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Rayman 10th Anniversary 2005
Sony PlayStation 2 Rayman 2: Revolution 2001
Nintendo 64 Rayman 2: The Great Escape 1999
Sega Dreamcast Rayman 2: The Great Escape 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Rayman 3: Hoodlum Havoc 2004
Sony PlayStation 4 Rayman Legends 2014
Sony PlayStation Vita Rayman Legends 2013
Sony PlayStation Vita Rayman Origins 2012
Sony PlayStation 3 Rayman Origins 2011
Nintendo Wii Rayman Origins 2011
Nintendo Wii Rayman Raving Rabbids 2006
Nintendo Wii Rayman Raving Rabbids 2 2007
Sony PlayStation RayStorm [Red Ship CD Art] 1996
Sega Dreamcast Record of Lodoss War 2001
Sony PlayStation 3 Red Dead Redemption 2010
Sony PlayStation 4 Red Dead Redemption 2 [Collector's Box] 2018
Sega Master System Reggie Jackson Baseball 1989
Nintendo GameCube Resident Evil 2002
Sega Dreamcast Resident Evil 2 2000
Nintendo GameCube Resident Evil 2 2003
Sony PlayStation 4 Resident Evil 2 2019
Sony PlayStation 4 Resident Evil 2 [Deluxe Edition] 2019
Sony PlayStation 4 Resident Evil 3 2020
Nintendo GameCube Resident Evil 3: Nemesis 2003
Sega Dreamcast Resident Evil 3: Nemesis 2000
Nintendo GameCube Resident Evil 4 2005
Sony PlayStation 2 Resident Evil 4 2005
Sony PlayStation 3 Resident Evil 5 [Collector's Edition] 2009
Sony PlayStation 4 Resident Evil 7: Biohazard [Collector's Edition] 2017
Sega Dreamcast Resident Evil CODE: Veronica 2000
Nintendo GameCube Resident Evil CODE: Veronica X 2003
Nintendo GameCube Resident Evil Zero 2002
Nintendo 3DS Resident Evil: Revelations 2012
Sony PlayStation 5 Resident Evil: Village 2021
Sony PlayStation 3 Resistance 2 [Collector's Edition] 2008
Sony PlayStation 3 Resistance 3 2011
Sony PlayStation 3 Resistance: Fall of Man 2006
Sony PlayStation 3 Resonance of Fate 2010
Multiple Consoles RetroN 3 [Vector Red] 2010
Multiple Consoles RetroN 5 [Black] 2014
Multiple Consoles RetroN 5 Wireless Controller [Black] 2014
IBM PC Return to Castle Wolfenstein id Software 1

Microsoft Xbox Return to Castle Wolfenstein: Tides of War 2003
Sony PlayStation Rhapsody: A Musical Adventure 2000
Nintendo 3DS Rhythm Thief & The Emperor's Treasure 2012
Sony PSP Ridge Racer 2005
Nintendo 64 Ridge Racer 64 2000
Sony PlayStation 3 Ridge Racer 7 2006
Sony PlayStation Ridge Racer Type 4 1998
Sony PlayStation 2 Ridge Racer V 2000
Sega Genesis Ristar 1995
Sony PlayStation Rival Schools 1998
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Riviera: The Promised Land 2005
Sega Genesis Road Rash 3 1995
Sega Genesis Road Rash [7020 Part Number] 1991
Sega Genesis Road Rash II 1992
Nintendo SNES Road Runner's Death Valley Rally 1992
Sega CD Robo Aleste 1993
Nintendo NES RoboCop 1989
Nintendo SNES Rocko's Modern Life: Spunky's Dangerous Day 1994
Microsoft Xbox Rockstar Games Double Pack: Grand Theft Auto 2003
Sony PlayStation 2 Rogue Galaxy 2007
Sony PlayStation 2 Romancing SaGa 2005
Nintendo 64 Rush 2: Extreme Racing USA 1998
Sony PlayStation 5 Sackboy: A Big Adventure 2020
Nintendo Switch SaGa Frontier Remastered 2021
Sega Genesis Sagaia 1991
Nintendo Wii Sakura Wars: So Long, My Love 2010
Sony PlayStation 2 Sakura Wars: So Long, My Love [Premium Box] 2010
Nintendo Switch Sam & Max Save the World 2021
Sony PlayStation 4 Samurai Shodown 2019
Nintendo SNES Samurai Shodown 1994
Nintendo Wii Samurai Shodown Anthology 2009
Sega Dreamcast San Francisco Rush 2049 2000
Nintendo 64 San Francisco Rush: Extreme Racing 1997
Sega Saturn Saturn Bomberman 1997
Sega Saturn Saturn Bomberman Fight!! 1997
Sega Saturn Saturn RF Unit [Official Sega] 1995
Nintendo SNES Scooby-Doo Mystery 1995
Microsoft Xbox One Sea of Thieves 2018
Nintendo SNES Secret of Evermore 1995
Nintendo SNES Secret of Mana 1993
IBM PC Secret of Monkey Island, The 1990
Commodore Amiga Secret of Monkey Island, The [Kixx XL] 1993
IBM PC Secret of Monkey Island, The [Special Edition] 2009
Sony PlayStation Network Secret of Monkey Island, The: Special Edition 2010
Sega Dreamcast Sega Dreamcast 1999
Sega Dreamcast Sega Dreamcast 4X Memory Card 2000
Sega Dreamcast Sega Dreamcast Broadband Adapter 2000
Sega Game Gear Sega Game Gear [Sonic 2 System] 1993
Sega Genesis Sega Genesis 2 [Sonic 2 System Bundle] 1993
Sega Genesis Sega Genesis 3 1998

Sega CD Sega Genesis CDX 1994
 Microsoft Xbox Sega GT 2002 / Jet Set Radio Future 2002
 Sega Master System Sega Master System [The Base System - Hang-On Built In] 1988
 Sega Master System Sega Master System II 1990
 Sega Genesis Sega Nomad 1995
 Sega Dreamcast Sega Rally 2: Sega Rally Championship 1999
 Sega Saturn Sega Rally Championship 1995
 Sega Saturn Sega Saturn 3D Control Pad 1996
 Sega Saturn Sega Saturn [Oval Buttons] 1995
 Sega Saturn Sega Saturn [Round Buttons] 1996
 Sega Saturn Sega Saturn Power Cable 1995
 Nintendo Super Famicom Seiken Densetsu 3 1995
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shadow Hearts: Covenant 2004
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shadow Hearts: From The New World 2006
 Commodore Amiga Shadow of the Beast 1989
 Sony PlayStation 4 Shadow of the Colossus 2018
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shadow of the Colossus 2005
 Nintendo NES Shadow of the Ninja 1990
 Nintendo SNES Shadowrun 1993
 Nintendo 3DS Shantae and the Pirate's Curse 2016
 Sony PlayStation 4 Shantae: Half-Genie Hero [Risky Beats' Edition] 2016
 Sega Dreamcast Shenmue 2000
 Microsoft Xbox Shenmue II 2002
 Nintendo Switch Shin Megami Tensei III: Nocturne HD Remaster 2021
 Nintendo 3DS Shin Megami Tensei IV 2013
 Nintendo 3DS Shin Megami Tensei IV: Apocalypse 2016
 Nintendo 3DS Shin Megami Tensei IV: Apocalypse [Launch Edition] 2016
 Nintendo Switch Shin Megami Tensei V 2021
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shin Megami Tensei: Devil Summoner - Raidou Kuzunoha vs. The Soulless Army 2006
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shin Megami Tensei: Devil Summoner 2 - Raidou Kuzunoha vs. King Abaddon 2009
 Nintendo DS Shin Megami Tensei: Devil Survivor 2009
 Nintendo DS Shin Megami Tensei: Devil Survivor 2 2012
 Nintendo 3DS Shin Megami Tensei: Devil Survivor 2 Record Breaker [Bonus Decal Set + Music CD] 2015
 Nintendo 3DS Shin Megami Tensei: Devil Survivor Overclocked 2011
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shin Megami Tensei: Digital Devil Saga 2 2005
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shin Megami Tensei: Digital Devil Saga [Deluxe Box Set] 2005
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shin Megami Tensei: Nocturne 2004
 Sony PSP Shin Megami Tensei: Persona 2 - Innocent Sin 2011
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shin Megami Tensei: Persona 3 2007
 Sony PSP Shin Megami Tensei: Persona 3 Portable 2010
 Sony PlayStation 2 Shin Megami Tensei: Persona 4 2008
 Nintendo DS Shin Megami Tensei: Strange Journey 2010
 Sega Genesis Shining Force 1993
 Sega CD Shining Force CD 1994
 Sega Genesis Shining Force II 1994
 Sega Saturn Shining Force III 1998
 Nintendo Switch Shining Resonance Refrain [Launch Edition] 2018

Sony PlayStation 2 Shining Tears 2004
Sega Saturn Shining the Holy Ark 1997
Sega Genesis Shinobi III: Return of the Ninja Master 1993
Sony PlayStation Vita Shiren the Wanderer: The Tower of Fortune and the Dice of Fate 2016
IBM PC Shoot the Bullet 2005
Microsoft Xbox Silent Hill 2: Restless Dreams 2001
Nintendo Wii Silent Hill: Shattered Memories 2009
Sony PlayStation Silhouette Mirage [B Disc Variant] 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Silpheed: The Lost Planet 2000
Nintendo SNES SimCity 1991
IBM PC SimCity 1989
IBM PC SimCity 2000 [CD Collection] 1994
IBM PC SimCity 2000 [Special Edition] 1995
IBM PC SimCity 3000 Unlimited 2000
IBM PC SimCity 4 2003
Nintendo DS SimCity DS 2007
Commodore Amiga Simon the Sorcerer 1994
Nintendo Wii Simpsons Game, The 2007
Nintendo NES Simpsons, The: Bart vs. the Space Mutants 1991
Sega Genesis Simpsons, The: Bart vs. The Space Mutants 1992
Nintendo SNES Simpsons, The: Bart's Nightmare 1992
IBM PC Sims 2, The 2004
IBM PC Sims 3, The 2009
IBM PC Sims, The 2000
Nintendo Wii Sin & Punishment: Star Successor 2010
Sony PlayStation 4 Sine Mora EX 2017
IBM PC Sins of a Solar Empire 2008
Nintendo NES Skate or Die 2: The Search for Double Trouble 1990
Nintendo NES Skate or Die [Oval Seal] 1989
Sega Dreamcast Skies of Arcadia 2000
Nintendo GameCube Skies of Arcadia Legends 2003
IBM PC SkyNET 1996
Sony PlayStation 2 Sly 2: Band of Thieves 2004
Sony PlayStation 2 Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves 2005
Sony PlayStation 2 Sly Cooper and the Thievius Raccoonus 2002
Nintendo NES Snake Rattle n Roll 1990
Nintendo NES Snake's Revenge 1990
Plug & Play TV Games SNES Classic Edition 2017
Nintendo Wii SNK Arcade Classics Volume 1 2008
Sega Saturn Solar Eclipse 1995
Nintendo DS Solatorobo: Red the Hunter 2011
Sega Genesis Sonic & Knuckles 1994
Sony PlayStation 3 Sonic & Sega All-Stars Racing 2010
Sega Genesis Sonic 3D Blast 1996
Sega Saturn Sonic 3D Blast 1996
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Sonic Advance 2002
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Sonic Advance 2 2003
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Sonic Advance 3 2004
Sega Dreamcast Sonic Adventure 1999
Sega Dreamcast Sonic Adventure 2 2001

Nintendo GameCube Sonic Adventure 2 Battle 2002
Nintendo GameCube Sonic Adventure DX: Director's Cut 2003
Nintendo Wii Sonic and the Black Knight 2009
Sega Game Gear Sonic Blast 1996
Nintendo 3DS Sonic Boom: Fire & Ice 2016
Nintendo Wii U Sonic Boom: Rise of Lyric 2014
Nintendo 3DS Sonic Boom: Shattered Crystal 2014
Sega CD Sonic CD [Not for Resale] 1994
Sega Game Gear Sonic Chaos 1993
Nintendo DS Sonic Chronicles: The Dark Brotherhood 2008
Nintendo DS Sonic Classic Collection 2010
Nintendo Wii Sonic Colors 2010
Nintendo DS Sonic Colors 2010
Sega Game Gear Sonic Drift 2 1995
Nintendo Switch Sonic Forces [Bonus Edition] 2017
Nintendo GameCube Sonic Gems Collection 2005
Nintendo 3DS Sonic Generations 2011
Sony PlayStation 3 Sonic Generations 2011
Sony PlayStation 2 Sonic Heroes 2004
Sega Saturn Sonic Jam 1997
Sony PlayStation 4 Sonic Mania [Collector's Edition] 2017
Nintendo Switch Sonic Mania Plus 2018
Nintendo GameCube Sonic Mega Collection 2002
Sega Saturn Sonic R 1997
Nintendo DS Sonic Rush 2005
Nintendo DS Sonic Rush Adventure 2007
Sega Genesis Sonic the Hedgehog 1991
Sega Master System Sonic the Hedgehog 1991
Sony PlayStation 3 Sonic the Hedgehog 2007
Sega Genesis Sonic the Hedgehog 2 1992
Sega Master System Sonic the Hedgehog 2 1992
Sega Genesis Sonic the Hedgehog 3 1994
Sega Game Gear Sonic the Hedgehog: Triple Trouble 1994
Sega Game Gear Sonic the Hedgehog: Triple Trouble [Majesco Rerelease] 2000
Sony PlayStation 3 Sonic Unleashed 2008
Sony PlayStation 3 Sonic's Ultimate Genesis Collection 2009
Nintendo Wii U Sonic: Lost World 2013
Nintendo 3DS Sonic: Lost World 2013
Sony PSP Sony 32MB Memory Stick Duo [Official Branded PSP] 2006
Sony PlayStation 2 Sony PlayStation 2 [Slimline - Charcoal Black] 2009
Sony PlayStation 3 Sony PlayStation 3 Slim [500 GB Bundle] 2012
Sony PlayStation 4 Sony PlayStation 4 Pro 2016
Sony PlayStation 4 Sony PlayStation 4 Slim [Uncharted 4 Bundle] 2016
Sony PlayStation Vita Sony PS Vita [Call of Duty: Black Ops: Declassified Limited Edition PlayStation Vita Wi-Fi Bundle] 2012
Sony PlayStation Vita Sony PS Vita [Slim] 2014
Sony PSP Sony PSP [Entertainment Pack] 2006
Sony PSP Sony PSP [PSP 3000 Core Pack System - Piano Black] 2008
Sony PSP Sony PSP [Value Pack] 2005
Sega Saturn Soukyugurentai Otokuyou 1997

Sony PlayStation Soul Blade 1997
Nintendo SNES Soul Blazer 1992
Sega Dreamcast Soul Fighter 1999
Sony PlayStation 5 Soul Hackers 2 2022
Sony PlayStation 2 Soul Nomad & the World Eaters 2007
Sega Dreamcast SoulCalibur 1999
Sony PlayStation 2 SoulCalibur II 2003
Nintendo GameCube SoulCalibur II 2003
Sony PlayStation 2 SoulCalibur III 2005
Sony PlayStation 3 SoulCalibur IV 2008
Sony PlayStation 3 SoulCalibur V 2012
Sony PlayStation 4 SoulCalibur VI [Collector's Edition] 2018
Sega Saturn Soviet Strike 1996
Nintendo Game Boy Space Invaders 1994
Nintendo 64 Space Invaders 1999
Nintendo SNES Space Invaders [Rated 'E'] 1998
Nintendo DS Space Invaders Extreme 2 2009
Nintendo SNES Space Megaforce 1994
Sega Dreamcast Speed Devils 1999
Microsoft Xbox Sphinx and the Cursed Mummy 2003
Sega Dreamcast Spider-Man 2001
Sony PlayStation 4 Spider-Man [Collector's Edition] 2018
Nintendo Wii U Splatoon 2015
Nintendo Switch Splatoon 2 2017
Sega Genesis Splatterhouse 2 1992
Sega Genesis Splatterhouse 3 1993
Sony PlayStation 2 SpongeBob Squarepants Featuring Nicktoons: Globbs of Doom 2008
Nintendo GameCube SpongeBob SquarePants Movie, The [Player's Choice] 2005
Nintendo GameCube SpongeBob SquarePants: Battle for Bikini Bottom 2003
Nintendo NES Spy Hunter [3 Screw - Oval Seal] 1989
Sony PlayStation Spyro 2: Ripto's Rage [Greatest Hits] 1999
Sony PlayStation Spyro the Dragon 1998
Sony PlayStation Spyro the Dragon [Greatest Hits] 1998
Sony PlayStation Spyro: Year of the Dragon 2000
Sony PlayStation 3 SSX 2012
Sony PlayStation 2 SSX 3 2003
Nintendo Wii SSX Blur 2007
Nintendo NES Stadium Events [3 Screw] 1987
Nintendo NES Stadium Events [5 Screw] 1987
Nintendo SNES Star Fox 1993
Nintendo 64 Star Fox 64 1997
Nintendo GameCube Star Fox Adventures [Player's Choice] 2002
Nintendo GameCube Star Fox Assault 2005
Nintendo GameCube Star Fox Assault [Player's Choice] 2006
Nintendo Wii U Star Fox: Zero 2016
Nintendo Super Famicom Star Ocean 1996
Sony PSP Star Ocean: First Departure 2008
Sony PlayStation 4 Star Ocean: Integrity and Faithlessness 2016
Sony PSP Star Ocean: Second Evolution 2009
Microsoft Xbox 360 Star Ocean: The Last Hope 2009

Sony PlayStation 3 Star Ocean: The Last Hope - International 2010
Sony PlayStation Star Ocean: The Second Story 1999
Sony PlayStation 2 Star Ocean: Till the End of Time 2004
Nintendo SNES Star Trek: Starfleet Academy Starship Bridge Simulator 1994
Nintendo SNES Star Trek: The Next Generation 1994
Microsoft Xbox Star Wars: Battlefront [Platinum Hits] 2005
Nintendo 64 Star Wars: Episode I: Battle for Naboo 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Star Wars: Jedi Starfighter 2002
Microsoft Xbox Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic 2003
IBM PC Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic 2003
IBM PC Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic II - The Sith Lords 2005
Microsoft Xbox Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic II - The Sith Lords 2004
Nintendo 64 Star Wars: Rogue Squadron 1998
Nintendo GameCube Star Wars: Rogue Squadron II: Rogue Leader 2001
Nintendo 64 Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire 1996
IBM PC StarCraft + StarCraft Expansion Set [Best Seller Series] 2007
Nintendo 64 StarCraft 64 2000
IBM PC StarCraft II: Wings of Liberty [Collector's Edition] 2010
Nintendo NES StarTropics 1991
Sony PlayStation 2 Steambot Chronicles 2006
Sony PlayStation 2 Stella Deus: The Gate of Eternity 2005
Nintendo 3DS Stella Glow 2015
Sony PlayStation 5 Stranger of Paradise: Final Fantasy Origin 2022
Sony PlayStation 4 Street Fighter 30th Anniversary Collection 2018
Sega Dreamcast Street Fighter Alpha 3 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Street Fighter Anniversary Collection 2004
Sega Dreamcast Street Fighter III: Double Impact 2000
Sony PlayStation 4 Street Fighter V 2016
Sony PlayStation 3 Street Fighter X Tekken 2012
Sega Genesis Streets of Rage 1991
Sega Game Gear Streets of Rage 2 1993
Sega Genesis Streets of Rage 2 1992
Sega Genesis Streets of Rage 3 1994
Nintendo SNES Stunt Race FX 1994
Sony PlayStation Suikoden 1996
Sony PlayStation Suikoden II 1999
Sony PlayStation 2 Suikoden III 2002
Sony PlayStation 2 Suikoden IV 2005
Sony PlayStation 2 Suikoden V 2006
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Summon Night: Swordcraft Story 2006
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Summon Night: Swordcraft Story 2 2006
Nintendo DS Summon Night: Twin Age 2008
Nintendo SNES Sunset Riders 1993
Nintendo SNES Super Bomberman 1993
Nintendo SNES Super Bomberman 2 [Rerelease] 1998
Nintendo Switch Super Bomberman R 2017
Nintendo NES Super C 1990
Nintendo SNES Super Castlevania IV [Majesco Rerelease] 1997
Nintendo SNES Super Double Dragon 1992
Nintendo SNES Super Ghouls 'N Ghosts 1991

Nintendo 3DS Super Mario 3D Land 2011
Nintendo Wii U Super Mario 3D World 2013
Nintendo Switch Super Mario 3D World + Bowser's Fury 2021
Nintendo 64 Super Mario 64 1996
Nintendo DS Super Mario 64 DS 2004
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Super Mario Advance 2001
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Super Mario Advance 4: Super Mario Bros. 3 2003
Nintendo SNES Super Mario All-Stars 1993
Nintendo Wii Super Mario All-Stars [Nintendo Selects] 2016
Nintendo NES Super Mario Bros. / Duck Hunt / World Class Track Meet [Oval Seal TM] 1989
Nintendo NES Super Mario Bros. 2 [Oval Seal - Trademark] 1989
Nintendo NES Super Mario Bros. 3 [Rerelease] 1990
Nintendo Game Boy Color Super Mario Bros. Deluxe 1999
Nintendo Wii Super Mario Galaxy 2007
Nintendo Wii Super Mario Galaxy 2 2010
Nintendo SNES Super Mario Kart 1992
Nintendo Game Boy Super Mario Land 1989
Nintendo 3DS Virtual Console Super Mario Land 2: 6 Golden Coins 2011
Nintendo Game Boy Super Mario Land 2: 6 Golden Coins [Players Choice - E] 1998
Nintendo Game Boy Super Mario Land [Players Choice] 1996
Nintendo Wii U Super Mario Maker 2015
Nintendo Switch Super Mario Maker 2 2019
Nintendo 3DS Super Mario Maker for Nintendo 3DS 2016
Nintendo Switch Super Mario Odyssey 2017
Nintendo Switch Super Mario Party 2018
Nintendo SNES Super Mario RPG: Legend of the Seven Stars 1996
Nintendo GameCube Super Mario Sunshine 2002
Nintendo SNES Super Mario World 1991
Nintendo SNES Super Mario World 2: Yoshi's Island 1995
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Super Mario World: Super Mario Advance 2 2002
Nintendo SNES Super Metroid 1994
Sega Genesis Super Monaco GP 1990
Nintendo GameCube Super Monkey Ball 2001
Sony PlayStation 4 Super Monkey Ball: Banana Mania 2021
Nintendo Switch Super Monkey Ball: Banana Mania 2021
Nintendo SNES Super Nintendo Entertainment System [Control Set] 1991
Nintendo SNES Super Nintendo Entertainment System [Model 2 - A Link to the Past Bundle] 1997
Nintendo SNES Super Nintendo Entertainment System [Super Game Boy Set] 1995
Nintendo Wii Super Paper Mario 2007
Nintendo NES Super Pitfall [3 Screw - Oval Seal] 1989
Nintendo SNES Super R-Type 1991
Nintendo Wii Super Smash Bros. Brawl 2008
Nintendo Wii U Super Smash Bros. For Wii U 2014
Nintendo GameCube Super Smash Bros. Melee 2001
Nintendo Switch Super Smash Bros. Ultimate [Special Edition] 2018
Nintendo SNES Super Star Wars [Players Choice] 1996
Nintendo SNES Super Star Wars: Return of the Jedi [THQ] 1994
Nintendo SNES Super Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back [THQ] 1994
Commodore Amiga Super Stardust 1994

Sony PlayStation 3 Super Street Fighter IV 2010
 Nintendo SNES Super Turracan 1993
 Nintendo SNES Super Turracan 2 1995
 Nintendo SNES Super Valis IV 1992
 Sony PlayStation Vita Superdimension Neptune vs Sega Hard Girls 2016
 Nintendo Switch Superlative Night Dreams: Cotton Fantasy [Strictly Limited Games Standard Edition] [Cotton Fantasy] 2022
 Nintendo Game Boy Sword of Hope, The 1991
 Sega Genesis Sword of Vermilion 1990
 Microsoft Xbox Syberia 2003
 IBM PC System Shock 1994
 Sony PlayStation Tactics Ogre 1998
 Sony PSP Tactics Ogre: Let us Cling Together 2011
 Sega Game Gear Tails Adventure 1995
 Sony PlayStation 4 Tales of Berseria [Collector's Edition] 2017
 Sony PlayStation Tales of Destiny 1998
 Sony PlayStation Tales of Destiny II 2001
 Sony PlayStation 3 Tales of Graces F 2012
 Sony PlayStation Vita Tales of Hearts R 2014
 Sony PlayStation 2 Tales of Legendia 2005
 Nintendo Super Famicom Tales of Phantasia 1995
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Tales of Phantasia 2006
 Nintendo GameCube Tales of Symphonia 2004
 Sony PlayStation 3 Tales of Symphonia Chronicles 2014
 Nintendo Wii Tales of Symphonia: Dawn of the New World 2008
 Sony PlayStation 2 Tales of the Abyss 2006
 Nintendo 3DS Tales of The Abyss 2012
 Nintendo DS Tales of the Tempest 2006
 Microsoft Xbox 360 Tales of Vesperia [Special Edition] 2008
 Nintendo Switch Tales of Vesperia: Definitive Edition [Anniversary Bundle] 2019
 Sony PlayStation 3 Tales of Xillia 2013
 Sony PlayStation 3 Tales of Xillia 2 2014
 Sony PlayStation 4 Tales Of Zestiria [Collector's Edition] 2015
 Nintendo Wii Tatsunoko vs. Capcom Ultimate All-Stars 2010
 Nintendo Switch Team Sonic Racing 2019
 Nintendo NES Tecmo Bowl [Oval Seal] 1989
 Nintendo NES Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 1989
 Nintendo 3DS Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2013
 Nintendo 3DS Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (Movie) 2014
 Sony PlayStation 2 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2: Battle Nexus 2004
 Nintendo GameCube Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2: Battle Nexus 2004
 Nintendo GameCube Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3: Mutant Nightmare 2005
 Nintendo DS Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3: Mutant Nightmare 2005
 Nintendo NES Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Arcade Game 1990
 Nintendo NES Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Arcade Game [Rerelease] 1990
 Nintendo SNES Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles IV: Turtles in Time 1992
 Sega Genesis Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Hyperstone Heist 1992
 Sony PlayStation 3 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Danger of the Ooze 2014
 Nintendo 3DS Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Master Splinter's Training Pack 2015
 Sony PlayStation 4 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutants in Manhattan 2016

Nintendo Wii Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Smash-Up 2009
Nintendo Switch Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Cowabunga Collection 2022
Nintendo NES Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Tournament Fighters 1994
Nintendo SNES Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Tournament Fighters 1993
Sony PlayStation Tekken 2 1996
Sony PlayStation 2 Tekken 4 2002
Sony PlayStation 2 Tekken 5 2005
Sony PlayStation 3 Tekken 6 2009
Sony PlayStation 3 Tekken Tag Tournament 2 2012
Atari Jaguar Tempest 2000 1994
Nintendo Wii Tenchu: Shadow Assassins 2009
Nintendo SNES Terranigma 1996
Sega Dreamcast Test Drive: Le Mans 2000
Sega Dreamcast Test Drive: V-Rally 2000
Nintendo SNES Tetris & Dr. Mario [Players Choice - K-A] 1996
Nintendo SNES Tetris Attack 1996
Nintendo Game Boy Color Tetris DX [ESRB Rerelease] 1999
Sony PlayStation 4 Tetris Effect 2018
Nintendo 64 Tetrisphere 1997
Commodore Amiga Theme Park 1994
Sega Saturn Theme Park 1995
Sony PlayStation Thousand Arms 1999
Sony PlayStation Threads of Fate 2000
Sega Genesis Thunder Force II 1989
Sega Genesis Thunder Force III 1990
Sony PlayStation Thunder Force V: Perfect System 1998
Sony PlayStation 2 Thunderstrike: Operation Phoenix 2001
Nintendo GameCube TimeSplitters 2 2002
IBM PC Titan Quest Gold 2007
Nintendo Wii TMNT 2007
Sega Genesis ToeJam & Earl 1991
Microsoft Xbox ToeJam & Earl III: Mission to Earth 2002
Sega Genesis ToeJam & Earl in Panic on Funkotron 1993
Nintendo Wii U Tokyo Mirage Sessions #FE [Special Edition] 2016
Sony PlayStation 4 Tokyo Xanadu eX+ [Limited Edition] 2017
Sega Dreamcast Tokyo Xtreme Racer 1999
Sega Dreamcast Tokyo Xtreme Racer 2 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Tokyo Xtreme Racer 3 2003
Sony PlayStation 2 Tokyo Xtreme Racer Zero 2001
Microsoft Xbox 360 Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Advanced Warfighter 2006
Microsoft Xbox 360 Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Advanced Warfighter 2 2007
Microsoft Xbox 360 Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Vegas 2006
Microsoft Xbox 360 Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Vegas 2 2008
Microsoft Xbox Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell 2002
Microsoft Xbox Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Chaos Theory [Limited Collector's Edition] 2005
Microsoft Xbox 360 Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Double Agent 2006
Microsoft Xbox Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Pandora Tomorrow 2004
Sony PlayStation 3 Tomb Raider 2013
Sony PlayStation 3 Tomb Raider Trilogy, The 2011
Sega Dreamcast Tomb Raider: Chronicles 2000

Sega Dreamcast Tomb Raider: The Last Revelation 2000
Sony PlayStation Tomba! 1997
Nintendo Wii Tony Hawk's Downhill Jam 2006
Sega Dreamcast Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2000
Sega Dreamcast Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2 2000
Microsoft Xbox Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 2x 2001
Microsoft Xbox Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3 2002
Microsoft Xbox Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4 2002
Microsoft Xbox Tony Hawk's Underground 2003
Microsoft Xbox Tony Hawk's Underground 2 2004
Nintendo SNES Top Gear 1992
Microsoft Xbox Top Spin 2003
IBM PC Torchlight [Cardboard Case] 2010
IBM PC Torchlight II [Limited Edition] 2017
Sega Genesis Toy Story, Disney's 1995
Nintendo Super Famicom Treasure Hunter G 1996
Nintendo Switch Trials of Mana 2020
Sony PlayStation 3 Trinity Universe 2010
Sega Genesis Truxton 1990
Sony PlayStation 4 Turok / Turok 2: Seeds of Evil Dual-Pack 2022
IBM PC Turok 2: Seeds of Evil 1999
Nintendo 64 Turok 2: Seeds of Evil 1998
Nintendo 64 Turok: Dinosaur Hunter 1997
Sega Genesis Twin Cobra: Desert Attack Helicopter 1991
Sega Mega Drive Twinkle Tale 1992
Sony PlayStation 3 Twisted Metal 2012
Sony PlayStation 2 Twisted Metal Black 2001
Sega Dreamcast Typing of the Dead, The 2001
Nintendo SNES U.N. Squadron 1991
Sony PSP Ultimate Ghosts 'n Goblins 2006
Sony PlayStation 3 Ultimate Marvel vs. Capcom 3 2011
Nintendo SNES Ultimate Mortal Kombat 3 1996
Nintendo SNES Ultraman 1991
Sony PlayStation 3 Uncharted 2: Among Thieves 2009
Sony PlayStation 3 Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception 2011
Sony PlayStation 4 Uncharted 4: A Thief's End 2016
Sony PlayStation 3 Uncharted: Drake's Fortune 2007
Sony PlayStation Vita Uncharted: Golden Abyss 2012
Sony PlayStation 4 Uncharted: The Nathan Drake Collection 2015
Sony PlayStation 3 Under Defeat HD: Deluxe Edition 2012
Microsoft Xbox Unreal Championship 2002
Microsoft Xbox Unreal Championship 2: The Liandri Conflict 2005
IBM PC Unreal Gold 1998
IBM PC Unreal II: The Awakening 2003
Sony PlayStation 2 Unreal Tournament 2000
IBM PC Unreal Tournament 2003 2002
IBM PC Unreal Tournament 2004 2004
IBM PC Unreal Tournament 3 2007
IBM PC Unreal Tournament: Game of the Year Edition 2000
Sony PlayStation Vagrant Story 2000

Sega Genesis Valis 1992
Sega Genesis Valis III 1991
Sony PlayStation 3 Valkyria Chronicles 2008
Nintendo Switch Valkyria Chronicles 4 [Memoirs from Battle Premium Edition] 2018
Sony PSP Valkyria Chronicles II 2010
Sony PlayStation Valkyrie Profile 2000
Sony PlayStation 2 Valkyrie Profile 2: Silmeria 2006
Sony PSP Valkyrie Profile: Lenneth 2006
Sony PlayStation 3 Vampire Resurrection 2013
Sega Game Gear Vampire: Master of Darkness 1993
Sony PlayStation Vandal Hearts 1997
Sega Dreamcast Vanishing Point 2001
Sony PlayStation 3 Vanquish 2010
Sega Genesis Vectorman 1995
Sega Genesis Vectorman 2 1996
Nintendo GameCube Viewtiful Joe 2003
Nintendo GameCube Viewtiful Joe 2 2004
Sega Saturn Virtua Fighter 1995
Sega Saturn Virtua Fighter 2 1996
Sega Dreamcast Virtua Fighter 3tb 1999
Sony PlayStation 2 Virtua Fighter 4: Evolution [Greatest Hits] 2003
Sony PlayStation 3 Virtua Fighter 5 2007
Sega Dreamcast Virtua Striker 2 2000
Sega Dreamcast Virtua Tennis 2000
Sega Saturn Virtual-On: Cyber Troopers 1996
Nintendo DS Viva Piñata: Pocket Paradise 2008
Sega Saturn Waku Waku 7 1997
Nintendo SNES War of the Gems, Marvel Super Heroes in 1996
IBM PC Warcraft II: Battle.net Edition 2001
IBM PC Warcraft III Battle Chest 2003
IBM PC Warhammer Online: Age of Reckoning 2008
Nintendo Game Boy Color Wario Land 3 2000
Nintendo Game Boy Advance Wario Land 4 2001
Nintendo Game Boy Color Wario Land II 1999
Nintendo Wii Wario Land: Shake It! 2008
Nintendo Game Boy Wario Land: Super Mario Land 3 1994
Nintendo GameCube Wario World 2003
Nintendo GameCube Wario World [Player's Choice] 2004
Nintendo DS WarioWare D.I.Y. 2010
Nintendo 3DS WarioWare Gold 2018
Nintendo Switch WarioWare: Get It Together! 2021
Nintendo Wii WarioWare: Smooth Moves 2007
Nintendo DS WarioWare: Touched! 2005
Nintendo Game Boy Advance WarioWare: Twisted! 2005
Nintendo Game Boy Color Warlocked 2000
Sega Genesis Warsong 1991
Nintendo 64 Wave Race 64 1996
Nintendo GameCube Wave Race: Blue Storm 2001
Nintendo Wii U Wii U Pro Controller [Black] 2012
Sony PlayStation 2 Wild Arms 3 2002

Sony PlayStation 2 Wild Arms 4 2006
 Sony PlayStation 2 Wild ARMs 5 [Series 10th Anniversary Edition] 2007
 Sony PlayStation 2 Wild Arms Alter Code: F 2005
 Nintendo SNES Wild Guns 1994
 Sony PlayStation 4 Wild Guns: Reloaded 2017
 Sony PlayStation Vita Wipeout 2048 2012
 Sony PlayStation Wipeout 3 2000
 Nintendo 64 Wipeout 64 1998
 Sony PlayStation 2 Wipeout Fusion 2001
 Sony PSP WipeOut Pulse 2008
 Sony PSP Wipeout Pure 2005
 Sony PlayStation Wipeout XL 1996
 Sony PlayStation 4 Wipeout: Omega Collection 2017
 Sony PlayStation 4 Witch and the Hundred Knight, The [Revival Edition] 2016
 IBM PC Witcher 2, The: Assassins of Kings 2011
 Sony PlayStation 4 Witcher III, The: Wild Hunt 2015
 IBM PC Witcher, The: Enhanced Edition 2008
 Nintendo SNES Wizardry V: Heart of the Maelstrom 1994
 Sony PlayStation 4 Wolfenstein II: The New Colossus 2017
 Sony PlayStation 4 Wolfenstein: The New Order 2014
 Sony PlayStation 4 Wolfenstein: The Old Blood 2015
 Nintendo Switch Wonder Boy - Asha in Monster World 2021
 Sega Master System Wonder Boy III: The Dragon's Trap 1989
 Sega Master System Wonder Boy in Monster Land 1988
 Sega Genesis Wonder Boy in Monster World 1992
 Nintendo Switch Wonder Boy: The Dragon's Trap [Launch Edition] 2018
 Nintendo Wii U Wonderful 101, The 2013
 Sega Genesis World Championship Soccer II 1994
 Nintendo 64 World Driver Championship 1999
 Nintendo DS World Ends With You, The 2008
 Sony PlayStation 4 World of Final Fantasy [Collector's Edition] 2016
 Sony PlayStation Vita World of Final Fantasy [Day One Edition] 2016
 Sega Genesis World of Illusion Starring Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck [No Cartridge Part #] 1992
 IBM PC World of Warcraft [Collector's Edition] 2004
 IBM PC World of Warcraft: The Burning Crusade 2007
 IBM PC World of Warcraft: Cataclysm 2010
 IBM PC World of Warcraft: Wrath of the Lich King 2008
 Sega Genesis World Series Baseball '98 1997
 Sony PlayStation 2 World Series Baseball 2K3 2003
 Sony PlayStation 2 World Soccer Winning Eleven 6 International 2003
 Sony PlayStation 2 World Soccer Winning Eleven 7 International 2004
 Sony PlayStation 2 World Soccer Winning Eleven 8 International 2005
 Sony PlayStation 2 World Soccer Winning Eleven 9 2006
 Commodore Amiga Worms 1995
 Sega Saturn Worms 1996
 Nintendo 64 Worms Armageddon 2000
 Sony PlayStation 4 WRC 5 2015
 Sony PlayStation 5 WRC 9: The Official Game 2020
 Nintendo Wii WWE '12 2011

Sega Genesis WWF Super Wrestlemania 1992
 Nintendo SNES X-Men: Mutant Apocalypse 1995
 Nintendo Wii Xenoblade Chronicles 2012
 Nintendo Switch Xenoblade Chronicles 2 [Special Edition] 2017
 Nintendo Switch Xenoblade Chronicles 3 2022
 Nintendo Wii U Xenoblade Chronicles X 2015
 Nintendo Switch Xenoblade Chronicles: Definitive Edition 2020
 Sony PlayStation Xenogears 1998
 Sony PlayStation 2 Xenosaga Episode I: Der Wille zur Macht 2003
 Sony PlayStation 2 Xenosaga Episode II: Jenseits von Gut und Böse 2005
 Sony PlayStation 2 Xenosaga Episode III: Also sprach Zarathustra 2006
 Nintendo GameCube XGRA: Extreme G Racing Association 2003
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Yggdra Union: We'll Never Fight Alone 2006
 Nintendo 3DS Yo-kai Watch 2015
 Nintendo 3DS Yo-Kai Watch 3 2019
 Nintendo DS Yoshi's Island DS 2006
 Nintendo Game Boy Advance Yoshi's Island: Super Mario Advance 3 2002
 Nintendo 3DS Yoshi's New Island 2014
 Nintendo Wii U Yoshi's Woolly World [Amiibo Bundle - Green] 2015
 Sony PSP Ys I & II Chronicles 2011
 Nintendo SNES Ys III: Wanderers from Ys 1992
 Sony PlayStation 4 Ys IX: Monstros Nox [Pact Edition] 2021
 Sony PSP Ys Seven [Premium Edition] 2010
 Nintendo Switch Ys VIII: Lacrimosa of Dana [Adventurer's Edition] 2018
 Sony PlayStation 4 Ys VIII: Lacrimosa of Dana [Limited Edition] 2017
 Sony PlayStation Vita Ys: Memories of Celceta 2013
 Sony PlayStation 2 Ys: The Ark of Napishtim 2005
 Sony PSP Ys: The Oath in Felghana 2010
 Sony PSP Z.H.P. Unlosing Ranger vs. Darkdeath Evilman 2010
 Nintendo Wii Zack & Wiki: Quest for Barbaros' Treasure 2007
 Commodore Amiga Zak McKracken and the Alien Mindbenders 1989
 IBM PC Zak McKracken and the Alien Mindbenders 1988
 Nintendo NES Zelda II: The Adventure of Link [Gold - Oval Seal] 1989
 Sony PlayStation Vita Zero Escape: Virtue's Last Reward 2012
 Nintendo SNES Zombies Ate My Neighbors 1993

2.2.28 Movies seen in 2023 (2023-02-19 21:49)

Position	Title	IMDb Rating	Year
1	Alien	8.5	1979
2	Hak hap	6	1996
3	A Bridge Too Far	7.4	1977
4	A Christmas Carol	7.8	1984
5	A Christmas Carol	5	1982
6	A Christmas Carol	7	1950
7	A Streetcar Named Desire	7.9	1951

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- 8 A Walk in the Sun 6.9 1945
- 9 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 7.3 1939
- 10 Alice in Wonderland 6.4 2010
- 11 Alien³ 6.4 1992
- 12 AVP: Alien vs. Predator 5.6 2004
- 13 Aliens 8.4 1986
- 14 An American Carol 4 2008
- 15 An American Werewolf in London 7.5 1981
- 16 The Aviator 7.5 2004
- 17 Band of Brothers 9.4 2001
- 18 Battlestar Galactica 8.5 2003
- 19 Battlestar Galactica 8.7 2004
- 20 Black Rain 6.6 1989
- 21 Dracula 7.4 1992
- 22 The Bridge at Remagen 6.7 1969
- 23 The Brides of Dracula 6.6 1960
- 24 Broken Arrow 6.1 1996
- 25 Cat on a Hot Tin Roof 7.9 1958
- 26 Centennial 8.3 1978
- 27 The Changeling 7.2 1980
- 28 Collateral 7.5 2004
- 29 The Changeling 7 2006
- 30 The Curse of Frankenstein 7 1957
- 31 Night of the Demon 7.4 1957
- 32 Daybreakers 6.4 2009
- 33 Death Hunt 6.9 1981
- 34 Defiance 7.1 2008
- 35 Dirty Harry 7.7 1971
- 36 Magnum Force 7.2 1973
- 37 Sudden Impact 6.6 1983
- 38 The Dead Pool 6.3 1988
- 39 How the Grinch Stole Christmas 6.3 2000
- 40 Dracula 6.5 1979
- 41 Dracula Has Risen from the Grave 6.5 1968
- 42 Dracula A.D. 1972 5.9 1972
- 43 Dracula: Prince of Darkness 6.7 1966
- 44 East of Eden 7.8 1955
- 45 Enemy at the Gates 7.5 2001
- 46 Eight Below 7.3 2006
- 47 Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within 6.4 2001
- 48 Firefox 5.9 1982
- 49 Fright Night 7 1985
- 50 Halloween 7.7 1978
- 51 Hidalgo 6.7 2004
- 52 Hide and Seek 5.9 2005
- 53 Dracula 7.2 1958
- 54 How the West Was Won 7 1962
- 55 Independence Day 7 1996
- 56 Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom 7.5 1984
- 57 Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade 8.2 1989

58 Raiders of the Lost Ark 8.4 1981
59 Iron Man 2 6.9 2010
60 Iron Man 7.9 2008
61 It's a Wonderful Life 8.6 1946
62 Jurassic Park 8.2 1993
63 K-19: The Widowmaker 6.7 2002
64 The War 9 2007
65 Kiss of the Dragon 6.6 2001
66 Live Free or Die Hard 7.1 2007
67 The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring 8.8 2001
68 The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King 9 2003
69 The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers 8.8 2002
70 The Matrix 8.7 1999
71 The Matrix Reloaded 7.2 2003
72 The Matrix Revolutions 6.7 2003
73 This Is It 7.2 2009
74 Minority Report 7.6 2002
75 Mirrors 6.1 2008
76 The Mummy 7.1 1999
77 The Mummy Returns 6.4 2001
78 My Fair Lady 7.8 1964
79 National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 7.5 1989
80 The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes 7 1970
81 Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl 8.1 2003
82 Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest 7.3 2006
83 Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End 7.1 2007
84 Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides 6.6 2011
85 Premonition 5.9 2007
86 Rat Race 6.4 2001
87 Rebel Without a Cause 7.6 1955
88 Robin Hood 6.6 2010
89 The Satanic Rites of Dracula 5.5 1973
90 Saving Private Ryan 8.6 1998
91 Scars of Dracula 6.1 1970
92 Seabiscuit 7.3 2003
93 The Pearl of Death 7.1 1944
94 The Fatal Hour 5.4 1940
95 Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon 6.5 1942
96 Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror 6.4 1942
97 Shutter Island 8.2 2010
98 Sleepy Hollow 7.3 1999
99 Fainaru fantaji sebun adobento chirudoren 7.2 2005
100 Spider-Man 7.4 2002
101 Spider-Man 2 7.4 2004
102 Spider-Man 3 6.3 2007
103 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 6.7 1990
104 South Pacific 6.8 1958
105 TMNT 6.2 2007
106 Star Trek: The Next Generation 8.7 1987
107 Star Trek: Generations 6.6 1994

108 Star Trek: The Motion Picture - The Director's Edition 6.4 1979
109 Star Trek: First Contact 7.6 1996
110 Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan 7.7 1982
111 Star Trek III: The Search for Spock 6.6 1984
112 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine 8.1 1993
113 Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home 7.3 1986
114 Dracula 7.4 1931
115 Son of Dracula 6.1 1943
116 Star Trek V: The Final Frontier 5.5 1989
117 Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country 7.2 1991
118 Star Trek: Insurrection 6.4 1998
119 Star Trek: Nemesis 6.4 2002
120 Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 6.5 1999
121 Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones 6.6 2002
122 Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith 7.6 2005
123 Star Wars 8.6 1977
124 The Empire Strikes Back 8.7 1980
125 Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi 8.3 1983
126 State of Play 7.1 2009
127 It 6.8 1990
128 Rose Red 6.6 2002
129 Silver Bullet 6.4 1985
130 Taken 7.8 2008
131 The Terminator 8.1 1984
132 Terminator 2: Judgment Day 8.6 1991
133 Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines 6.3 2003
134 Terminator Salvation 6.5 2009
135 Omen IV: The Awakening 3.9 1991
136 The Blue and the Gray 7.5 1982
137 The Bourne Supremacy 7.7 2004
138 The Diary of Ellen Rimbauer 5.4 2003
139 The Exorcist 8.1 1973
140 The Final Countdown 6.6 1980
141 The Ghost Writer 7.2 2010
142 The Great Outdoors 6.6 1988
143 The Hound of the Baskervilles 7.4 1939
144 The Hound of the Baskervilles 6.9 1959
145 The Hound of the Baskervilles 6.5 2002
146 The Hustler 8 1961
147 The Long, Hot Summer 7.3 1958
148 Per qualche dollaro in più 8.2 1965
149 Il buono, il brutto, il cattivo 8.8 1966
150 Per un pugno di dollari 7.9 1964
151 North and South 8 1985
152 The One 5.9 2001
153 The Pacific 8.3 2010
154 The Phantom of the Opera 7.2 2004
155 The Relic 5.8 1997
156 The Thing 8.2 1982
157 Meet the Fockers 6.3 2004

158 The Thin Red Line 7.6 1998
159 The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada 7.3 2005
160 The Verdict 7.7 1982
161 The Watcher 5.3 2000
162 They Were Expendable 7.2 1945
163 To Kill a Mockingbird 8.3 1962
164 Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life 5.5 2003
165 Trailer Park Boys 8.6 2001
166 Valkyrie 7.1 2008
167 Van Helsing 6 2004
168 Von Ryan's Express 7.1 1965
169 Wall Street 7.3 1987
170 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps 6.2 2010
171 War and Remembrance 8.3 1988
172 War of the Worlds 6.5 2005
173 White Christmas 7.5 1954
174 Without a Clue 6.9 1988
175 The Winds of War 8.1 1983
176 WWII in HD 8.7 2009
177 X2 7.4 2003
178 The X Files 8.6 1993
179 X-Men 7.3 2000
180 X-Men: The Last Stand 6.6 2006
181 Lawrence of Arabia 8.3 1962
182 Dumb and Dumber 7.3 1994
183 The Hangover 7.7 2009
184 El laberinto del fauno 8.2 2006
185 Resident Evil 6.6 2002
186 Resident Evil: Apocalypse 6.1 2004
187 Resident Evil: Afterlife 5.8 2010
188 Resident Evil: Extinction 6.2 2007
189 The Wolfman 5.8 2010
190 Mortal Kombat 5.8 1995
191 Doctor Zhivago 7.9 1965
192 The Searchers 7.9 1956
193 The Guns of Navarone 7.5 1961
194 Monty Python and the Holy Grail 8.2 1975
195 The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance 8.1 1962
196 Rio Bravo 8 1959
197 The Quiet Man 7.7 1952
198 The Shootist 7.6 1976
199 Rooster Cogburn 6.8 1975
200 True Grit 7.4 1969
201 The Undefeated 6.6 1969
202 Hellfighters 6.5 1968
203 The Green Berets 5.6 1968
204 El Dorado 7.5 1966
205 The Sons of Katie Elder 7.1 1965
206 Donovan's Reef 6.7 1963
207 The Longest Day 7.7 1962

208 The Comancheros 6.8 1961
209 North to Alaska 6.9 1960
210 The Alamo 6.8 1960
211 The Horse Soldiers 7.1 1959
212 Island in the Sky 6.8 1953
213 The High and the Mighty 6.7 1954
214 Gran Torino 8.1 2008
215 Blood Work 6.4 2002
216 Space Cowboys 6.5 2000
217 True Crime 6.6 1999
218 Absolute Power 6.7 1997
219 Ef: A Tale of Melodies. 7.5 2008
220 Kureimoa 8 2007
221 Angel Beats! 7.6 2010
222 The Bridges of Madison County 7.6 1995
223 A Perfect World 7.5 1993
224 Unforgiven 8.2 1992
225 Pink Cadillac 5.3 1989
226 Pale Rider 7.3 1985
227 High Plains Drifter 7.4 1973
228 Joe Kidd 6.4 1972
229 Back to the Future 8.5 1985
230 Back to the Future Part II 7.8 1989
231 Back to the Future Part III 7.4 1990
232 Kelly's Heroes 7.6 1970
233 Where Eagles Dare 7.6 1968
234 Batman 7.5 1989
235 Batman Returns 7.1 1992
236 Batman & Robin 3.7 1997
237 The Dark Knight 9 2008
238 Batman Begins 8.2 2005
239 Batman Forever 5.4 1995
240 Gung Ho 6.3 1986
241 Beetle Juice 7.5 1988
242 Chinatown 8.2 1974
243 The Shining 8.4 1980
244 Reds 7.3 1981
245 The Two Jakes 6.1 1990
246 A Few Good Men 7.7 1992
247 Wolf 6.2 1994
248 About Schmidt 7.2 2002
249 The Departed 8.5 2006
250 The Fugitive 7.8 1993
251 Lonesome Dove 8.7 1989
252 Volcano 5.5 1997
253 Men in Black 7.3 1997
254 Men in Black II 6.1 2002
255 Rules of Engagement 6.4 2000
256 No Country for Old Men 8.2 2007
257 Real Genius 6.9 1985

258 Top Gun 6.9 1986
259 Thunderheart 6.8 1992
260 Heat 8.3 1995
261 Days of Thunder 6.1 1990
262 Far and Away 6.6 1992
263 Australia 6.6 2008
264 American Graffiti 7.4 1973
265 Blade Runner 8.1 1982
266 Working Girl 6.8 1988
267 Patriot Games 6.8 1992
268 Air Force One 6.5 1997
269 Six Days Seven Nights 5.9 1998
270 Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull 6.2 2008
271 Firewall 5.8 2006
272 Hollywood Homicide 5.3 2003
273 The Godfather 9.2 1972
274 The Godfather Part III 7.6 1990
275 The Godfather Part II 9 1974
276 Invasion of the Body Snatchers 7.4 1978
277 Apocalypse Now 8.5 1979
278 Sling Blade 8 1996
279 Deep Impact 6.2 1998
280 Gods and Generals 6.2 2003
281 Gone in Sixty Seconds 6.5 2000
282 Open Range 7.4 2003
283 Crazy Heart 7.2 2009
284 The Color of Money 7 1986
285 Born on the Fourth of July 7.2 1989
286 The Firm 6.8 1993
287 Mission: Impossible 7.1 1996
288 Jerry Maguire 7.3 1996
289 Rain Man 8 1988
290 Mission: Impossible II 6.1 2000
291 Vanilla Sky 6.9 2001
292 Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery 7 1997
293 Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me 6.6 1999
294 Austin Powers in Goldmember 6.2 2002
295 The Last Samurai 7.8 2003
296 Tropic Thunder 7.1 2008
297 Mission: Impossible III 6.9 2006
298 Hud 7.8 1963
299 Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid 8 1969
300 The Sting 8.3 1973
301 Three Days of the Condor 7.4 1975
302 All the President's Men 7.9 1976
303 The Horse Whisperer 6.7 1998
304 28 Days Later... 7.5 2002
305 Halloween II 6.5 1981
306 Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers 5.8 1988
307 Halloween III: Season of the Witch 5.1 1982

308 Halloween 5: The Revenge of Michael Myers 4.9 1989
309 Halloween H20: 20 Years Later 5.8 1998
310 Halloween: Resurrection 3.9 2002
311 Virus 5 1999
312 Escape from New York 7.1 1981
313 Big Trouble in Little China 7.2 1986
314 Tequila Sunrise 6 1988
315 Backdraft 6.7 1991
316 Tombstone 7.8 1993
317 Stargate 7 1994
318 Escape from L.A. 5.7 1996
319 Mad Max 6.8 1979
320 Mad Max 2 7.6 1981
321 Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome 6.2 1985
322 Lethal Weapon 7.6 1987
323 Lethal Weapon 2 7.2 1989
324 Lethal Weapon 3 6.7 1992
325 Lethal Weapon 4 6.6 1998
326 The Man Without a Face 6.7 1993
327 Braveheart 8.4 1995
328 Ransom 6.7 1996
329 The Patriot 7.2 2000
330 We Were Soldiers 7.1 2002
331 Signs 6.8 2002
332 Superman 7.4 1978
333 Superman Returns 6.1 2006
334 Superman II 6.8 1980
335 Superman III 5 1983
336 Superman IV: The Quest for Peace 3.7 1987
337 The Pelican Brief 6.6 1993
338 The Hunt for Red October 7.5 1990
339 Erin Brockovich 7.4 2000
340 Steel Magnolias 7.3 1989
341 Mystic Pizza 6.3 1988
342 Courage Under Fire 6.6 1996
343 Crimson Tide 7.3 1995
344 The Siege 6.4 1998
345 The Bone Collector 6.7 1999
346 The Taking of Pelham 123 6.4 2009
347 Ghostbusters 7.8 1984
348 Ghostbusters II 6.6 1989
349 National Lampoon's Animal House 7.4 1978
350 The Blues Brothers 7.9 1980
351 Blues Brothers 2000 4.9 1998
352 American Pie 7 1999
353 American Pie 2 6.4 2001
354 American Wedding 6.3 2003
355 Pitch Black 7.1 2000
356 The Chronicles of Riddick 6.6 2004
357 Hannibal 6.8 2001

358 Manhunter 7.2 1986
359 Red Dragon 7.2 2002
360 The Silence of the Lambs 8.6 1991
361 Inception 8.8 2010
362 Transformers 7 2007
363 Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen 5.9 2009
364 Fargo 8.1 1996
365 Avatar 7.9 2009
366 Marley & Me 7 2008
367 The Money Pit 6.4 1986
368 Turner & Hooch 6.2 1989
369 A League of Their Own 7.3 1992
370 Forrest Gump 8.8 1994
371 From the Earth to the Moon 8.6 1998
372 You've Got Mail 6.7 1998
373 Cast Away 7.8 2000
374 The Running Man 6.6 1987
375 Road to Perdition 7.7 2002
376 Catch Me If You Can 8.1 2002
377 The Terminal 7.4 2004
378 The Da Vinci Code 6.6 2006
379 Angels & Demons 6.7 2009
380 Young Frankenstein 8 1974
381 Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man 6.4 1943
382 The Curse of Frankenstein 7 1957
383 The Revenge of Frankenstein 6.8 1958
384 The Mummy 6.7 1959
385 The Evil of Frankenstein 6 1964
386 Frankenstein Created Woman 6.5 1967
387 The Gorgon 6.4 1964
388 Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed 6.7 1969
389 Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell 6.3 1974
390 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone 7.6 2001
391 Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets 7.4 2002
392 Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban 7.9 2004
393 Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire 7.7 2005
394 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix 7.5 2007
395 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince 7.6 2009
396 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 8.1 2011
397 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 7.7 2010
398 Rocky 8.1 1976
399 Rocky II 7.3 1979
400 Rocky III 6.8 1982
401 Rocky IV 6.8 1985
402 Rocky V 5.3 1990
403 First Blood 7.7 1982
404 Rambo: First Blood Part II 6.5 1985
405 Rambo III 5.8 1988
406 Cliffhanger 6.5 1993
407 Demolition Man 6.7 1993

408 Judge Dredd 5.6 1995
409 Cop Land 7 1997
410 Antz 6.5 1998
411 Driven 4.6 2001
412 Rocky Balboa 7.1 2006
413 Rambo 7 2008
414 The Forbidden Kingdom 6.5 2008
415 The Arrival 6.2 1996
416 The Lost World: Jurassic Park 6.5 1997
417 Jurassic Park III 5.9 2001
418 The Fly 7.6 1986
419 Event Horizon 6.6 1997
420 Wall Street 7.3 1987
421 Red Dawn 6.3 1984
422 Platoon 8.1 1986
423 Uncommon Valor 6.3 1983
424 Ghost 7.1 1990
425 Dirty Dancing 7 1987
426 Road House 6.6 1989
427 Point Break 7.2 1991
428 Dracula 7.4 1992
429 Speed 7.3 1994
430 Chain Reaction 5.6 1996
431 The Devil's Advocate 7.5 1997
432 The Day the Earth Stood Still 5.5 2008
433 Bat*21 6.4 1988
434 Mississippi Burning 7.8 1988
435 Wyatt Earp 6.7 1994
436 The Quick and the Dead 6.5 1995
437 Enemy of the State 7.3 1998
438 Fong Sai Yuk 7.1 1993
439 The French Connection 7.7 1971
440 The Princess Bride 8 1987
441 Twister 6.4 1996
442 Liar Liar 6.9 1997
443 Shadow of the Vampire 6.9 2000
444 Legends of the Fall 7.5 1994
445 Nixon 7.1 1995
446 The Mask of Zorro 6.8 1998
447 Instinct 6.5 1999
448 Little Fockers 5.5 2010
449 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective 6.9 1994
450 Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls 6.4 1995
451 The Cable Guy 6.1 1996
452 The Mask 6.9 1994
453 Man on the Moon 7.4 1999
454 Bruce Almighty 6.8 2003
455 Entrapment 6.3 1999
456 The Legend of Zorro 5.9 2005
457 Titanic 7.9 1997

458 Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles 7.5 1994
459 Se7en 8.6 1995
460 Twelve Monkeys 8 1995
461 Meet Joe Black 7.2 1998
462 Ocean's Eleven 7.7 2001
463 Ocean's Twelve 6.5 2004
464 Ocean's Thirteen 6.9 2007
465 The Curious Case of Benjamin Button 7.8 2008
466 Inglourious Basterds 8.3 2009
467 Die Hard 8.2 1988
468 Die Hard 2 7.1 1990
469 Die Hard with a Vengeance 7.6 1995
470 The Fifth Element 7.6 1997
471 The Jackal 6.4 1997
472 Mercury Rising 6.1 1998
473 The Siege 6.4 1998
474 Surrogates 6.3 2009
475 Solaris 6.2 2002
476 Leatherheads 6 2008
477 Michael Clayton 7.2 2007
478 Up in the Air 7.4 2009
479 Shrek 7.9 2001
480 King Kong 7.2 2005
481 King Kong 5.9 1976
482 Tucker: The Man and His Dream 6.9 1988
483 The Big Lebowski 8.1 1998
484 K-PAX 7.4 2001
485 Seabiscuit 7.3 2003
486 Crazy Heart 7.2 2009
487 The Rainmaker 7.2 1997
488 Good Will Hunting 8.3 1997
489 The Talented Mr. Ripley 7.4 1999
490 Titan A.E. 6.6 2000
491 The Bourne Identity 7.9 2002
492 The Bourne Supremacy 7.7 2004
493 The Good Shepherd 6.7 2006
494 The Bourne Ultimatum 8 2007
495 Invictus 7.3 2009
496 Green Zone 6.8 2010
497 O Brother, Where Art Thou? 7.7 2000
498 Starship Troopers 7.3 1997
499 Starship Troopers 2: Hero of the Federation 3.6 2004
500 Starship Troopers 3: Marauder 4.3 2008
501 Casablanca 8.5 1942
502 Mrs. Miniver 7.6 1942
503 To the Shores of Tripoli 5.9 1942
504 Mission to Moscow 5.4 1943
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604 Perry Mason: The Case of the Desperate Deception 7.2 1990
605 Perry Mason: The Case of the Fatal Fashion 6.9 1991
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624 Perry Mason: The Case of the Telltale Talk Show Host 6.9 1993
625 A Perry Mason Mystery: The Case of the Grimacing Governor 6.9 1994
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719 When Worlds Collide 6.6 1951
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1165 Bad Boy Bubby 7.3 1993
1166 The Apartment 8.3 1960
1167 Mr. Smith Goes to Washington 8.1 1939
1168 Miracle on 34th Street 7.9 1947
1169 On the Waterfront 8.1 1954
1170 The House of the Devil 6.3 2009
1171 Bend of the River 7.2 1952
1172 Night Passage 6.6 1957
1173 The Rare Breed 6.3 1966
1174 Catch-22 7.1 1970
1175 Deliverance 7.7 1972
1176 The Odessa File 7 1974
1177 Singin' in the Rain 8.3 1952
1178 The Charge of the Light Brigade 7 1936
1179 China Seas 6.9 1935
1180 The Adjustment Bureau 7 2011
1181 Contagion 6.8 2011
1182 Hornblower: The Even Chance 8.1 1998
1183 Hornblower: The Frogs and the Lobsters 7.9 1999
1184 Hornblower: The Examination for Lieutenant 8.1 1998
1185 Hornblower: Duty 7.9 2003
1186 Hornblower: Loyalty 8 2003
1187 Hornblower: Mutiny 8.1 2001
1188 Hornblower: The Duchess and the Devil 7.8 1999
1189 Hornblower: Retribution 8.2 2001
1190 Let Me In 7.1 2010
1191 Carlito's Way 7.9 1993
1192 The Mission 7.4 1986
1193 Frankie and Johnny 6.7 1991
1194 Donnie Brasco 7.7 1997
1195 Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind 8.3 2004
1196 The Dead Zone 7.2 1983
1197 The Dogs of War 6.3 1980
1198 The Big Year 6.2 2011
1199 Shall We Dance? 6.2 2004
1200 Autumn in New York 5.6 2000
1201 Runaway Bride 5.6 1999
1202 Final Analysis 5.9 1992
1203 Sommersby 6.2 1993
1204 Internal Affairs 6.5 1990
1205 The Cotton Club 6.5 1984
1206 Primal Fear 7.7 1996
1207 An Officer and a Gentleman 7 1982

1208 The Mothman Prophecies 6.4 2002
1209 The Guard 7.3 2011
1210 The General 7.2 1998
1211 Michael Collins 7.1 1996
1212 Cedar Rapids 6.3 2011
1213 School of Rock 7.2 2003
1214 Torn Curtain 6.6 1966
1215 Enemy Mine 6.8 1985
1216 Hunter Prey 5.8 2010
1217 Say Anything... 7.3 1989
1218 Stand by Me 8.1 1986
1219 2012 5.8 2009
1220 The Raven 6.4 2012
1221 Dark Passage 7.5 1947
1222 Somebody Up There Likes Me 7.5 1956
1223 High Society 6.9 1956
1224 High Time 6.1 1960
1225 The Emperor Waltz 6 1948
1226 Road to Rio 6.9 1947
1227 Going My Way 7 1944
1228 The Devil at 4 O'Clock 6.3 1961
1229 Ocean's Eleven 6.5 1960
1230 The Joker Is Wild 7 1957
1231 Not as a Stranger 6.7 1955
1232 Cool Hand Luke 8.1 1967
1233 Hombre 7.4 1967
1234 The Prize 6.8 1963
1235 The Towering Inferno 7 1974
1236 Harper 6.8 1966
1237 Sweet Bird of Youth 7.2 1962
1238 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo 7.8 2011
1239 Thunderbird 6 6.3 1968
1240 The Legend of Hell House 6.7 1973
1241 Tower Heist 6.2 2011
1242 Vanishing on 7th Street 4.9 2010
1243 Gettysburg 7.6 1993
1244 Arachnophobia 6.5 1990
1245 Infamous 7.1 2006
1246 As Good as It Gets 7.7 1997
1247 Fast Times at Ridgemont High 7.1 1982
1248 Bull Durham 7 1988
1249 I Married a Witch 7.1 1942
1250 The Story of Temple Drake 7.1 1933
1251 The Heiress 8.1 1949
1252 Dredd 7.1 2012
1253 The Haunted Palace 6.7 1963
1254 Mark of the Vampire 6.3 1935
1255 Dracula's Daughter 6.3 1936
1256 Bride of Frankenstein 7.8 1935
1257 Son of Frankenstein 7.1 1939

1258 The Ghost of Frankenstein 6.1 1942
1259 Mystery of the Wax Museum 6.8 1933
1260 The Reptile 6.1 1966
1261 Full Eclipse 5.4 1993
1262 Dead of Night 7.6 1945
1263 The Fog 6.8 1980
1264 Bud Abbott and Lou Costello Meet Frankenstein 7.3 1948
1265 The Last Man on Earth 6.7 1964
1266 The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms 6.6 1953
1267 Metropolis 8.3 1927
1268 Glengarry Glen Ross 7.7 1992
1269 Pride and Prejudice 7.4 1940
1270 Sullivan's Travels 7.9 1941
1271 The Dark Knight Rises 8.4 2012
1272 A Christmas Carol 7.5 1938
1273 Scrooge 8.1 1951
1274 John Carter 6.6 2012
1275 One Special Night 7.2 1999
1276 Maverick 7 1994
1277 Atlas Shrugged: Part I 5.6 2011
1278 Skyfall 7.8 2012
1279 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 7.8 2012
1280 Lincoln 7.3 2012
1281 Looper 7.4 2012
1282 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 4.9 2011
1283 The Rookie 5.9 1990
1284 Royal Wedding 6.7 1951
1285 Blue Skies 6.4 1946
1286 Broadway Melody of 1940 7.3 1940
1287 Flying Down to Rio 6.6 1933
1288 The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle 6.9 1939
1289 Joyful Noise 5.7 2012
1290 Pacific Rendezvous 5.8 1942
1291 The Farmer's Daughter 7.2 1947
1292 Captain Blood 7.7 1935
1293 The Adventures of Robin Hood 7.9 1938
1294 They Died with Their Boots On 7.2 1941
1295 White Heat 8.1 1949
1296 These Wilder Years 6.8 1956
1297 Blood on the Sun 6 1945
1298 Yankee Doodle Dandy 7.6 1942
1299 The Strawberry Blonde 7.2 1941
1300 Here Comes the Navy 6.2 1934
1301 Ceiling Zero 6.7 1936
1302 Angels with Dirty Faces 7.9 1938
1303 13 Rue Madeleine 6.9 1946
1304 The Roaring Twenties 7.9 1939
1305 Mister Roberts 7.6 1955
1306 Jezebel 7.4 1938
1307 The Woman in Black 6.4 2012

1308 Kill Your Darlings 6.4 2013
1309 Gilda 7.6 1946
1310 The Lady from Shanghai 7.5 1947
1311 Circus World 6.1 1964
1312 Blood and Sand 6.8 1941
1313 Criminals of the Air 6.8 1937
1314 Life Begins with Love 5.5 1937
1315 The Devils 7.8 1971
1316 Witchfinder General 6.7 1968
1317 Sense and Sensibility 7.7 1995
1318 Game of Thrones 9.2 2011
1319 Battleship 5.8 2012
1320 Battle: Los Angeles 5.7 2011
1321 Paul 6.9 2011
1322 Swingers 7.2 1996
1323 The Dark Half 6 1993
1324 Hold Back the Dawn 7.3 1941
1325 Chronicle 7 2012
1326 Warm Bodies 6.8 2013
1327 The Outlaw Josey Wales 7.8 1976
1328 Jui kuen II 7.5 1994
1329 Zui quan 7.4 1978
1330 The Last Days of Disco 6.7 1998
1331 Red vs. Blue: Don't Get Me Started 8.7 2009
1332 Red vs. Blue: For Those of You Just Joining Us... 9 2010
1333 Red vs. Blue: Revenants 8.9 2012
1334 Red vs. Blue: Rounding Error 8.4 2011
1335 Red vs. Blue 8.4 2003
1336 Sylvia 6.3 2003
1337 Django Unchained 8.4 2012
1338 TekWar: TekLab 5.6 1994
1339 TekWar: TekJustice 6 1994
1340 TekWar: TekLords 5.8 1994
1341 TekWar 5.8 1994
1342 My Week with Marilyn 6.9 2011
1343 Take the High Ground! 6 1953
1344 Dial M for Murder 8.2 1954
1345 1984 6.9 1956
1346 Night of the Living Dead 7.8 1968
1347 Soylent Green 7 1973
1348 Scanners 6.7 1981
1349 Nineteen Eighty-Four 7.1 1984
1350 Stage Door 7.7 1937
1351 Hit Parade of 1941 5.8 1940
1352 Time Out for Rhythm 6.3 1941
1353 Jam Session 6.3 1944
1354 On the Town 7.3 1949
1355 Oh, Men! Oh, Women! 5.1 1957
1356 We're Not Married! 6.4 1952
1357 Storm Warning 7.2 1951

1358 Top Hat 7.7 1935
1359 Swing Time 7.5 1936
1360 Argo 7.7 2012
1361 Zero Dark Thirty 7.4 2012
1362 Airplane! 7.7 1980
1363 Airplane II: The Sequel 6.1 1982
1364 Attack the Block 6.6 2011
1365 The Woman on Pier 13 6 1949
1366 Silver Linings Playbook 7.7 2012
1367 Les Misérables 7.5 2012
1368 The Perks of Being a Wallflower 7.9 2012
1369 Total Recall 6.2 2012
1370 Men in Black 3 6.8 2012
1371 Evil Dead 6.5 2013
1372 A Good Day to Die Hard 5.2 2013
1373 The Full Monty 7.2 1997
1374 Dodsworth 7.8 1936
1375 The Treasure of the Sierra Madre 8.2 1948
1376 And Then There Were None 7.4 1945
1377 All That Money Can Buy 7.6 1941
1378 The Great Gatsby 6.4 1974
1379 Father of the Bride 7.1 1950
1380 Father's Little Dividend 6.5 1951
1381 3:10 to Yuma 7.6 1957
1382 The Great Lie 7.1 1941
1383 Kitty Foyle 6.9 1940
1384 Lonesome Ghosts 7.5 1937
1385 Trick or Treat 7.2 1952
1386 Pluto's Judgement Day 7.2 1935
1387 Mickey's Rival 6.6 1936
1388 Mickey's Elephant 6.5 1936
1389 Mickey's Steam Roller 6.5 1934
1390 Steamboat Willie 7.5 1928
1391 The Haunted House 7 1929
1392 Mickey's Parrot 6.9 1938
1393 The Nifty Nineties 6.7 1941
1394 Pluto's Party 6.4 1952
1395 Lend a Paw 6.9 1941
1396 Mickey's Birthday Party 6.5 1942
1397 Symphony Hour 7.4 1942
1398 Tugboat Mickey 6.9 1940
1399 The Whalers 6.9 1938
1400 Mickey's Surprise Party 6.3 1939
1401 The Fox Hunt 6.5 1938
1402 All Together 5 1942
1403 Fantasia 7.7 1940
1404 Mickey and the Beanstalk 7.6 1947
1405 The Palm Beach Story 7.5 1942
1406 Wake of the Red Witch 6.5 1948
1407 Le procès 7.6 1962

1408 Always 6.4 1989
1409 The New World 6.7 2005
1410 Ball of Fire 7.7 1941
1411 Double Indemnity 8.3 1944
1412 The Shop Around the Corner 8 1940
1413 The Caine Mutiny 7.7 1954
1414 From Here to Eternity 7.6 1953
1415 Alice in Wonderland 6.3 1933
1416 Star Trek: Voyager 7.8 1995
1417 Nachts, wenn Dracula erwacht 5.6 1970
1418 The Three Musketeers 5.7 2011
1419 Where the Sidewalk Ends 7.6 1950
1420 The Last Tycoon 6.3 1976
1421 While the City Sleeps 6.9 1956
1422 Taking Chance 7.4 2009
1423 Star Trek Into Darkness 7.7 2013
1424 Bad Moon 5.8 1996
1425 To Catch a Thief 7.4 1955
1426 Indiscreet 6.7 1958
1427 Spellbound 7.5 1945
1428 Run Silent, Run Deep 7.3 1958
1429 Mutiny on the Bounty 7.6 1935
1430 Boom Town 7 1940
1431 The Actress 6.4 1953
1432 Broken Lance 6.9 1954
1433 Inherit the Wind 8.1 1960
1434 Adam's Rib 7.5 1949
1435 Bad Day at Black Rock 7.7 1955
1436 Pearl 6.5 1978
1437 The Bounty 7 1984
1438 Boogeyman 4.1 2005
1439 Insidious 6.8 2010
1440 Heathers 7.2 1988
1441 The Last Stand 6.3 2013
1442 Heartbreak Ridge 6.8 1986
1443 The Eiger Sanction 6.3 1975
1444 Contraband 6.4 2012
1445 Tenderness 5.5 2009
1446 The Spanish Main 6.3 1945
1447 36 Hours 7.3 1964
1448 Thunderbolt and Lightfoot 7 1974
1449 The Bourne Legacy 6.6 2012
1450 Great Expectations 7.8 1946
1451 Great Expectations 7.2 1999
1452 The Damned United 7.5 2009
1453 Executive Suite 7.4 1954
1454 Arbitrage 6.6 2012
1455 The Double 5.9 2011
1456 Oblivion 7 2013
1457 Rope 7.9 1948

1458 The Night of the Generals 7.2 1967
1459 The Anderson Tapes 6.4 1971
1460 Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 5.7 2012
1461 Stranger Than Fiction 7.6 2006
1462 Lady Be Good 6.4 1941
1463 Saboteur 7.1 1942
1464 Lewis 8.1 2006
1465 Tales of Terror 6.8 1962
1466 Iron Man Three 7.1 2013
1467 Killer Reality 4.5 2013
1468 The Bible 7.4 2013
1469 The Tomb of Ligeia 6.4 1964
1470 House of Wax 7 1953
1471 Tower of London 6.6 1939
1472 The Raven 6.5 1963
1473 Tower of London 6.3 1962
1474 The Mad Magician 6.5 1954
1475 Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger 6.3 1977
1476 The 7th Voyage of Sinbad 7.1 1958
1477 Jason and the Argonauts 7.3 1963
1478 Village of the Damned 7.3 1960
1479 Children of the Damned 6.2 1964
1480 Diary of a Madman 6.3 1963
1481 Ender's Game 6.6 2013
1482 Mickey's Christmas Carol 8 1983
1483 The Masque of the Red Death 6.9 1964
1484 Pork Chop Hill 7.1 1959
1485 Men in War 7.2 1957
1486 Mama 6.2 2013
1487 It Should Happen to You 7.2 1954
1488 The Marrying Kind 6.9 1952
1489 The Solid Gold Cadillac 7.5 1956
1490 Bells Are Ringing 6.9 1960
1491 Killing Kennedy 6 2013
1492 The Civil War 9.1 1990
1493 Once an Eagle 8 1976
1494 Man of Steel 7.1 2013
1495 You Can't Take It with You 7.8 1938
1496 Roughnecks: The Starship Troopers Chronicles 7.4 1999
1497 Auntie Mame 7.9 1958
1498 David Copperfield 7.7 1999
1499 The Personal History, Adventures, Experience, & Observation of David Copperfield the Younger 7.4 1935
1500 Gaslight 7.8 1944
1501 Beyond Tomorrow 6.5 1940
1502 The Wolverine 6.7 2013
1503 Journey to the Center of the Earth 7 1959
1504 The Last Days of Patton 6.3 1986
1505 Hugo 7.5 2011
1506 All Quiet on the Western Front 7.1 1979

1507 The Great Raid 6.6 2005
1508 The Sea Wolves 6.3 1980
1509 Between Heaven and Hell 6.5 1956
1510 So Proudly We Hail! 7.5 1943
1511 Battle of the Coral Sea 5.5 1959
1512 Weekend at Bernie's 6.4 1989
1513 My Blue Heaven 6.2 1990
1514 The Pee-Wee Herman Show on Broadway 7.6 2011
1515 Stir of Echoes 6.9 1999
1516 The Conjuring 7.5 2013
1517 The Amazing Spider-Man 6.9 2012
1518 Revenge of the Nerds 6.6 1984
1519 Revenge of the Nerds III: The Next Generation 3.9 1992
1520 Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise 5 1987
1521 The Secret of NIMH 7.5 1982
1522 Kôkaku kidôtai: Stand Alone Complex Solid State Society 7.8 2006
1523 Tenkû no shiro Rapyuta 8 1986
1524 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 5.5 2012
1525 Blood+ 7.6 2005
1526 Serial Experiments Lain 8.1 1998
1527 Outlaw Star 7.9 1998
1528 Darker Than Black: Kuro no keiyakusha 7.7 2007
1529 Ôkami to kôshinkyô 7.9 2008
1530 Black Lagoon 7.9 2006
1531 Ghost Hunt 8 2005
1532 Phantom: Requiem for the Phantom 7.6 2009
1533 Steins tvSeries 24
1534 Ergo Proxy 7.9 2006
1535 Suzumiya Haruhi no Yûutsu 7.8 2006
1536 Arsenic and Old Lace 7.9 1944
1537 Mr. Lucky 7.1 1943
1538 The Philadelphia Story 7.9 1940
1539 The Bishop's Wife 7.6 1947
1540 Suspicion 7.3 1941
1541 Garfield 5 2004
1542 An Affair to Remember 7.4 1957
1543 Monkey Business 6.9 1952
1544 Anastasia 7.1 1997
1545 Anastasia 7 1956
1546 The Lion in Winter 7.9 1968
1547 The Canterville Ghost 6.9 1944
1548 Sunrise at Campobello 6.9 1960
1549 Der Rote Baron 6.3 2008
1550 Blood on the Moon 6.9 1948
1551 The Soloist 6.7 2009
1552 The Remains of the Day 7.8 1993
1553 Moon Over Miami 6.7 1941
1554 Courage of Lassie 6.2 1946
1555 The Bells of St. Mary's 7.2 1945
1556 Blade II 6.7 2002

1557 Blade: Trinity 5.8 2004
1558 Walk Don't Run 6.6 1966
1559 My Cousin Vinny 7.6 1992
1560 The Karate Kid 7.3 1984
1561 Riddick 6.4 2013
1562 Watchers 5.3 1988
1563 Demon Seed 6.3 1977
1564 The Frozen Ground 6.4 2013
1565 The Wolf of Wall Street 8.2 2013
1566 The Place Beyond the Pines 7.3 2012
1567 Young Mr. Lincoln 7.5 1939
1568 The Host 5.8 2013
1569 Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet 7.4 1940
1570 My Sister Eileen 7 1942
1571 The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 7.8 2013
1572 Foreign Correspondent 7.5 1940
1573 Now, Voyager 7.9 1942
1574 Way Down East 7.4 1920
1575 West Point 6.6 1927
1576 Bullet to the Head 5.7 2012
1577 Alex Cross 5.1 2012
1578 Along Came a Spider 6.4 2001
1579 Kiss the Girls 6.6 1997
1580 Topper 7.2 1937
1581 Wilson 6.4 1944
1582 The Haunted 6.3 1991
1583 The Ghost and Mrs. Muir 7.8 1947
1584 Lifeforce 6.1 1985
1585 Nothing Left to Fear 4.4 2013
1586 Stake Land 6.4 2010
1587 Sex and the Single Girl 6.4 1964
1588 Wild and Wonderful 6.1 1964
1589 The Great Race 7.2 1965
1590 Need for Speed 6.4 2014
1591 Broken City 6.1 2013
1592 Slither 6.5 2006
1593 A Summer Place 6.9 1959
1594 42 7.5 2013
1595 The Good Witch 7.1 2008
1596 The Good Witch's Garden 7.1 2009
1597 The Good Witch's Gift 7.1 2010
1598 The Good Witch's Family 6.9 2011
1599 The Good Witch's Destiny 6.9 2013
1600 The Good Witch's Charm 6.9 2012
1601 How to Marry a Millionaire 6.8 1953
1602 Bus Stop 6.3 1956
1603 Sabrina 7.6 1954
1604 A Passage to India 7.3 1984
1605 Night Skies 4.5 2007
1606 Murder, My Sweet 7.5 1944

1607 High Sierra 7.5 1941
1608 Little Women 7.2 1949
1609 Little Women 7.3 1994
1610 His Girl Friday 7.8 1940
1611 Meet Me in St. Louis 7.5 1944
1612 The King and I 7.4 1956
1613 Way Out West 7.6 1937
1614 Hollywood Party 6 1934
1615 The Devil's Brother 7.1 1933
1616 Jitterbugs 6.2 1943
1617 The Flying Deuces 6.8 1939
1618 Sons of the Desert 7.5 1933
1619 The Music Box 7.9 1932
1620 Count Dracula 7.3 1977
1621 Inside Man 7.6 2006
1622 Antwone Fisher 7.3 2002
1623 Joyeux Noël 7.7 2005
1624 Road to Utopia 7.1 1945
1625 Star Spangled Rhythm 6.6 1942
1626 The Ghost Breakers 7.1 1940
1627 The Princess and the Pirate 6.8 1944
1628 My Favorite Brunette 6.7 1947
1629 My Favorite Blonde 7 1942
1630 Never Say Die 6.9 1939
1631 Road to Zanzibar 6.7 1941
1632 Fierce Creatures 6.4 1997
1633 The Hunger Games: Catching Fire 7.5 2013
1634 The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 7.8 2013
1635 King of Kings 7 1961
1636 The Glass Slipper 6.4 1955
1637 White House Down 6.3 2013
1638 Lone Survivor 7.5 2013
1639 Now You See Me 7.2 2013
1640 Gigi 6.6 1958
1641 Father Goose 7.3 1964
1642 An American in Paris 7.2 1951
1643 Daddy Long Legs 6.7 1955
1644 The Hunter 6.7 2011
1645 Bridge of Dragons 4.6 1999
1646 Universal Soldier: Day of Reckoning 5 2012
1647 The Expendables 2 6.6 2012
1648 The Expendables 6.4 2010
1649 Missionary Man 5 2007
1650 Direct Contact 4.2 2009
1651 Icarus 5.1 2010
1652 With a Song in My Heart 6.8 1952
1653 The Snows of Kilimanjaro 6.1 1952
1654 Fatso 6.2 1980
1655 Gentleman's Agreement 7.2 1947
1656 It Could Happen to You 6.4 1994

1657 My Brilliant Career 7.1 1979
1658 Picnic at Hanging Rock 7.4 1975
1659 The Fighter 7.8 2010
1660 Traffic 7.6 2000
1661 The World's End 6.9 2013
1662 The Song of Bernadette 7.6 1943
1663 The Dawn Patrol 7.5 1938
1664 The Tarnished Angels 7.1 1957
1665 How to Train Your Dragon 2 7.8 2014
1666 X-Men: Days of Future Past 7.9 2014
1667 Mutiny on the Bounty 7.2 1962
1668 The Last Winter 5.5 2006
1669 Guys and Dolls 7.1 1955
1670 The Brave 6.1 1997
1671 The Missouri Breaks 6.5 1976
1672 The Nightcomers 5.8 1971
1673 Reflections in a Golden Eye 6.7 1967
1674 The Appaloosa 6.3 1966
1675 Insidious: Chapter 2 6.5 2013
1676 Lone Survivor 7.5 2013
1677 The Big O 7.5 1999
1678 Sôru ita 7.8 2008
1679 Woman of the Year 7.1 1942
1680 Keeper of the Flame 6.7 1942
1681 Pat and Mike 6.9 1952
1682 Summertime 7.1 1955
1683 The Rainmaker 6.9 1956
1684 Suddenly, Last Summer 7.5 1959
1685 Long Day's Journey Into Night 7.5 1962
1686 Breaking Away 7.7 1979
1687 Super 8 7 2011
1688 Gallipoli 7.4 1981
1689 The Wings of Eagles 6.6 1957
1690 21 6.8 2008
1691 Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 5.9 2012
1692 Young Man with a Horn 7.2 1950
1693 Out of the Past 8 1947
1694 The Hook 6.5 1963
1695 The Seventh Cross 7.4 1944
1696 Heroes for Sale 7.4 1933
1697 Waterloo Bridge 7.7 1940
1698 Ivanhoe 6.7 1952
1699 Return of the Gunfighter 6.3 1966
1700 Bataan 6.9 1943
1701 Margin Call 7.1 2011
1702 Sydney 7.1 1996
1703 The Year of Living Dangerously 7.1 1982
1704 Cat's Eye 6.3 1985
1705 Jason Lives: Friday the 13th Part VI 6 1986
1706 Motel Hell 6 1980

1707 The Three Musketeers 7.1 1973
1708 The Return of the Musketeers 5.9 1989
1709 People Will Talk 7.4 1951
1710 Room for One More 7.1 1952
1711 Dream Wife 5.9 1953
1712 Gunga Din 7.2 1939
1713 Without Reservations 6.5 1946
1714 Tomorrow Is Forever 7.3 1946
1715 The Awful Truth 7.7 1937
1716 Holiday 7.7 1938
1717 Bishôjo senshi Sêrâ Mûn 7.7 1992
1718 Sailor Moon 7.6 1995
1719 Furious 6 7 2013
1720 Angry Video Game Nerd: The Movie 5.5 2014
1721 The Mouse That Roared 6.9 1959
1722 Tora! Tora! Tora! 7.5 1970
1723 Buffalo Soldiers 6.2 1997
1724 Seinfeld 8.9 1989
1725 Friends 8.9 1994
1726 Home Improvement 7.2 1991
1727 Unsolved Mysteries 8.2 1987
1728 Murder, She Wrote 7.1 1984
1729 Dragon Ball Z 8.8 1989
1730 Clarissa Explains It All 7.1 1991
1731 The Adventures of Pete & Pete 8.4 1992
1732 The Secret World of Alex Mack 7.5 1994
1733 All That 7.5 1994
1734 Are You Afraid of the Dark? 8.2 1990
1735 Godzilla 6.4 2014
1736 Doctor X 6.4 1932
1737 Portrait of Jennie 7.6 1948
1738 Scent of a Woman 8 1992
1739 Hearts in Atlantis 6.9 2001
1740 Needful Things 6.2 1993
1741 The Homesman 6.6 2014
1742 To Have and Have Not 7.8 1944
1743 The Big Sleep 7.9 1946
1744 Key Largo 7.7 1948
1745 Thank Your Lucky Stars 6.8 1943
1746 Action in the North Atlantic 7 1943
1747 That Certain Woman 6.5 1937
1748 Watch on the Rhine 7.1 1943
1749 Juarez 6.9 1939
1750 Ex-Lady 6.4 1933
1751 The Verdict 7.2 1946
1752 Bridge to Terabithia 7.2 2007
1753 Bambi 7.3 1942
1754 Ratatouille 8.1 2007
1755 Chicken Little 5.7 2005
1756 Freaky Friday 6.3 2003

1757 Re-Animator 7.2 1985
1758 Martin 7 1976
1759 The Cabin in the Woods 7 2011
1760 Peeping Tom 7.6 1960
1761 The Night of the Hunter 8 1955
1762 Knights of the Round Table 6.2 1953
1763 The Omen 5.5 2006
1764 Back from Eternity 6.5 1956
1765 Five Came Back 7.1 1939
1766 The Time of Their Lives 7.6 1946
1767 Africa Screams 6 1949
1768 Jack and the Beanstalk 5.8 1952
1769 Abbott and Costello in the Foreign Legion 6.3 1950
1770 Abbott and Costello Go to Mars 5.9 1953
1771 Dance with Me, Henry 5.5 1956
1772 Shadow of a Doubt 7.8 1943
1773 Edge of Tomorrow 7.9 2014
1774 Pandora and the Flying Dutchman 6.9 1951
1775 The White Cliffs of Dover 7 1944
1776 The Hucksters 6.7 1947
1777 The Killers 7.7 1946
1778 Singapore 6.5 1947
1779 The Bribe 6.6 1949
1780 Sunday Punch 5.7 1942
1781 H.M. Pulham, Esq. 6.9 1941
1782 Two Girls and a Sailor 6.6 1944
1783 Baccano! 8.2 2007
1784 Haibane Renmei 8 2002
1785 Herushingu 7.8 2001
1786 Kino no tabi 8.3 2003
1787 Kidô Senshi Gundam 00 8.1 2007
1788 Gekijouban Kidou senshi Gandamu 00: A wakening of the trailblazer 6.7 2010
1789 Kidô Senshi Gundam Unicorn 7.7 2010
1790 Toki o kakeru shôjo 7.7 2006
1791 N.H.K ni yôkoso! 8.3 2006
1792 Higurashi no naku koro ni 7.9 2006
1793 Fruits Basket 7.9 2001
1794 Dragon Ball 8.6 1995
1795 Samurai 7 7.6 2004
1796 Psycho-Pass 8.2 2012
1797 Shôjo kakumei Utena 8.1 1997
1798 The Others 7.6 2001
1799 The House That Dripped Blood 6.5 1971
1800 Dr. Terror's House of Horrors 6.6 1965
1801 From Beyond the Grave 6.6 1974
1802 Strait-Jacket 6.8 1964
1803 Twice-Told Tales 6.6 1963
1804 The Killers 7 1964
1805 The Big Heat 7.9 1953
1806 In a Lonely Place 7.9 1950

1807 The Woman in the Window 7.6 1944
1808 Criss Cross 7.4 1949
1809 Brute Force 7.6 1947
1810 Kiss of Death 7.4 1947
1811 The Angriest Man in Brooklyn 5.7 2014
1812 Runner Runner 5.6 2013
1813 A Star Is Born 7.5 1954
1814 Byzantium 6.5 2012
1815 Ancient Aliens 7.1 2009
1816 The Kid from Brooklyn 6.5 1946
1817 The Court Jester 7.8 1955
1818 A Song Is Born 6.9 1948
1819 Hans Christian Andersen 6.8 1952
1820 Frozen 7.4 2013
1821 Lonely Are the Brave 7.6 1962
1822 Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo 7.2 1944
1823 A Midsummer Night's Dream 6.8 1935
1824 Tin Man 7 2007
1825 Ring of Bright Water 7.1 1969
1826 A Yank in the R.A.F. 6.3 1941
1827 Don't Look Now 7.2 1973
1828 In the Good Old Summertime 7.1 1949
1829 The Real St. Nick 5.7 2012
1830 The Negotiator 7.3 1998
1831 The Interview 6.5 2014
1832 Cover Girl 6.7 1944
1833 In Harm's Way 7.2 1965
1834 The Big Kahuna 6.6 1999
1835 Divergent 6.6 2014
1836 Outrageous Fortune 6.2 1987
1837 Dune 6.3 1984
1838 Gunman's Walk 7 1958
1839 The Chase 7.1 1966
1840 Ultimo tango a Parigi 6.9 1972
1841 The Night of the Following Day 6 1969
1842 The Freshman 6.4 1990
1843 The Young Lions 7.1 1958
1844 The Fugitive Kind 7.1 1960
1845 War and Peace 6.7 1956
1846 War & Peace 8.3 1972
1847 Suisei no Gargantia 7.4 2013
1848 Blue Jasmine 7.3 2013
1849 The Chicken Chronicles 5.2 1977
1850 The Grass Is Greener 6.5 1960
1851 That Touch of Mink 6.6 1962
1852 Steiner - Das Eiserne Kreuz, 2. Teil 5 1979
1853 The Big Sleep 5.7 1978
1854 The Friends of Eddie Coyle 7.4 1973
1855 Man in the Middle 6.6 1964
1856 Cape Fear 7.7 1962

1857 The Sundowners 7.1 1960
1858 The Enemy Below 7.4 1957
1859 Man with the Gun 6.6 1955
1860 Wuthering Heights 7.5 1939
1861 Wuthering Heights 7.5 2009
1862 Easy Rider 7.3 1969
1863 Five Easy Pieces 7.4 1970
1864 Carnal Knowledge 6.9 1971
1865 Professione: reporter 7.5 1975
1866 Ruggles of Red Gap 7.6 1935
1867 JFK 8 1991
1868 Jûbê ninpûchô 7.8 1993
1869 Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust 7.6 2000
1870 Kenpuu Denki Berserk 8.7 1997
1871 Dragon Ball GT: Doragon bôru jîtî 6.8 1996
1872 Dragon Ball Z: Fukkatsu no Fusion!! Gokuu to Vegeta 7.6 1995
1873 Dragon Ball Z: Tobikkiri no Saikyô tai Saikyô 7.1 1991
1874 Dragon Ball Z: Gekitotsu!! 100-oku Power no Senshi-tachi 7 1992
1875 Dragon Ball Z: Ginga Giri-Giri!! Butchigiri no Sugoi Yatsu 7.1 1993
1876 Dragon Ball Z: Moetsukiro!! Nessen Ressen Chô-Gekisen 7.4 1993
1877 Dragon Ball Z - Doragon bôru zetto: Ryûken bakuhatsum!! Gokû ga yaraneba dare ga yaru 7.5 1995
1878 Dragon Ball Z: Doragon bôru Z - Kami to Kami 7.1 2013
1879 Dragon Ball Z: Chikyû Marugoto Chôkessen 6.8 1990
1880 Doragon boru Z: konoyo de ichiban tsuyoi yatsu 6.7 1990
1881 Dragon Ball Z: Super Saiya-jin da Son Gokû 6.6 1991
1882 Doragon bôru Z: Kyokugen batoru!! San dai sùpâ saiyajin 7 1992
1883 Night of the Lepus 4.1 1972
1884 Stridulum 5.1 1979
1885 Darby O'Gill and the Little People 7.1 1959
1886 Finian's Rainbow 6.1 1968
1887 Le salaire de la peur 8.2 1953
1888 Fury 7.9 1936
1889 It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World 7.5 1963
1890 Without Love 6.6 1945
1891 Sweet Smell of Success 8 1957
1892 Dead End 7.2 1937
1893 The Count of Monte Cristo 7.4 1934
1894 The Ghost Goes West 6.7 1935
1895 They Met in Bombay 6.5 1941
1896 Thousands Cheer 6.2 1943
1897 Park Row 7.2 1952
1898 42nd Street 7.3 1933
1899 Berkeley Square 6.5 1933
1900 Fifth Avenue Girl 6.8 1939
1901 Thoroughly Modern Millie 6.9 1967
1902 A Fish Called Wanda 7.5 1988
1903 Life of Brian 8 1979
1904 And Now for Something Completely Different 7.5 1971
1905 Pulp 5.9 1972

1906 Mona Lisa 7.3 1986
1907 Into the Storm 5.8 2014
1908 The Prisoner of Zenda 7.6 1937
1909 The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 7.4 2014
1910 Thank You for Smoking 7.5 2005
1911 Beyond a Reasonable Doubt 6.9 1956
1912 Spring Reunion 5.7 1956
1913 The Omen 7.5 1976
1914 The Wicker Man 7.5 1973
1915 Taste the Blood of Dracula 6.3 1970
1916 The Pit and the Pendulum 7 1961
1917 The Theory of Everything 7.7 2014
1918 The Imitation Game 8 2014
1919 San Francisco 7.2 1936
1920 Klute 7.1 1971
1921 Barabbas 6.9 1961
1922 One Foot in Heaven 6.7 1941
1923 Return from the Sea 6.3 1954
1924 I Was an American Spy 6.5 1951
1925 Rome Adventure 6.4 1962
1926 Wayne's World 7 1992
1927 Wayne's World 2 6.2 1993
1928 Tommy Boy 7.1 1995
1929 Kap ba ba dik sung 6.5 1995
1930 Angel on My Shoulder 6.8 1946
1931 Caccia alla volpe 6.4 1966
1932 Test Pilot 6.8 1938
1933 The Wild Life 6 1984
1934 Dip huet seung hung 7.8 1989
1935 Ying hung boon sik 7.4 1986
1936 Lat sau san taam 7.7 1992
1937 Mou gaan dou 8 2002
1938 Mou gaan dou II 7.3 2003
1939 Wo hu cang long 7.9 2000
1940 Ying xiong 7.9 2002
1941 Shi mian mai fu 7.5 2004
1942 Ip Man 8 2008
1943 Jing wu ying xiong 7.5 1994
1944 Fong Sai Yuk 2 6.9 1993
1945 Hung Hei Kwun: Siu Lam ng zou 6.3 1994
1946 The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor 5.2 2008
1947 Mr. Deeds 5.8 2002
1948 Happiness Ahead 6.6 1934
1949 Doppelgänger 6.3 1969
1950 Mirage 7.2 1965
1951 Quigley Down Under 6.9 1990
1952 The Bride Came C.O.D. 6.9 1941
1953 Love Me or Leave Me 7.1 1955
1954 Man of a Thousand Faces 7.1 1957
1955 On Moonlight Bay 7 1951

1956 Bringing Up Baby 7.8 1938
1957 Eureka Seven: Ao 6.7 2012
1958 Fright Night 6.4 2011
1959 Men of Honor 7.2 2000
1960 Monty Python's Flying Circus 8.8 1969
1961 D.O.A. 7.2 1949
1962 Super Bowl XXX 7.2 1996
1963 Super Bowl XLV 7.3 2011
1964 Super Bowl XXXVII 6.8 2003
1965 Super Bowl XLI 7.1 2007
1966 Super Bowl XXXI 7.2 1997
1967 Super Bowl XL 6.6 2006
1968 Super Bowl XLIX 7.7 2015
1969 Super Bowl XXXIX 6.6 2005
1970 Super Bowl XXXVI 7.7 2002
1971 Super Bowl XLIII 7.8 2009
1972 Super Bowl XLVI 7.6 2012
1973 Super Bowl XXXIII 6.7 1999
1974 Super Bowl XXXII 7.6 1998
1975 Super Bowl XLIV 7.6 2010
1976 Super Bowl XLVII 7 2013
1977 Super Bowl XXXVIII 7.3 2004
1978 Super Bowl XXXIV 7.7 2000
1979 Super Bowl XLII 8 2008
1980 Super Bowl XXXV 6 2001
1981 Super Bowl XXVII 6.6 1993
1982 Super Bowl XXVIII 6.6 1994
1983 Super Bowl XLVIII 6.1 2014
1984 2014 World Series 8.3 2014
1985 2004 World Series 7.4 2004
1986 2001 World Series 8.5 2001
1987 1997 World Series 7.2 1997
1988 2003 World Series 6.6 2003
1989 2011 World Series 8.7 2011
1990 2010 World Series 7.2 2010
1991 1995 World Series 8.8 1995
1992 1996 World Series 6.4 1996
1993 2012 World Series 6.9 2012
1994 2013 World Series 8.3 2013
1995 2009 World Series 7.7 2009
1996 2008 World Series 7.4 2008
1997 2005 World Series 8.3 2005
1998 1989 World Series 8 1989
1999 2002 World Series 8 2002
2000 2000 Official World Series 8.1 2000
2001 The Shield 8.7 2002
2002 Kaleido Star 7.8 2003
2003 Kiss Me Deadly 7.5 1955
2004 Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House 7.2 1948
2005 How Green Was My Valley 7.7 1941

2006 Baby Face 7.5 1933
2007 The Lady Eve 7.7 1941
2008 Love Me Tender 6.2 1956
2009 Jailhouse Rock 6.5 1957
2010 Viva Las Vegas 6.3 1964
2011 Live a Little, Love a Little 5.6 1968
2012 Fun in Acapulco 5.8 1963
2013 Wag the Dog 7.1 1997
2014 Suicide Kings 6.9 1997
2015 Kung Fu Panda 7.6 2008
2016 Kung Fu Panda 2 7.2 2011
2017 The Tale of Despereaux 6.1 2008
2018 I Am Legend 7.2 2007
2019 Hancock 6.4 2008
2020 The Big House 7.1 1930
2021 Walk on the Wild Side 6.7 1962
2022 Roustabout 6 1964
2023 Jeopardy 6.7 1953
2024 Clash by Night 7 1952
2025 What's the Matter with Helen? 6.3 1971
2026 Dark Shadows 6.2 2012
2027 Edward Scissorhands 7.9 1990
2028 The Devil's Daughter 5.8 1973
2029 The Grand Budapest Hotel 8.1 2014
2030 The Twilight Saga: Eclipse 5 2010
2031 The Twilight Saga: New Moon 4.7 2009
2032 Twilight 5.3 2008
2033 Now Is Good 7 2012
2034 Queen Christina 7.5 1933
2035 Home from the Hill 7.4 1960
2036 The Good Guys and the Bad Guys 6.1 1969
2037 Stage Fright 7 1950
2038 Imitation of Life 7.8 1959
2039 Gidget 6.6 1959
2040 Pocketful of Miracles 7.1 1961
2041 Stella Dallas 7.4 1937
2042 Plein soleil 7.7 1960
2043 Miss Sadie Thompson 5.9 1953
2044 Love Affair 7.3 1939
2045 Dark Victory 7.5 1939
2046 My Favorite Wife 7.3 1940
2047 Bigger Than Life 7.4 1956
2048 First Men in the Moon 6.5 1964
2049 Kraftidioten 7.1 2014
2050 The Last of Sheila 7.2 1973
2051 Campanadas a medianoche 7.7 1965
2052 The Tragedy of Othello: The Moor of Venice 7.6 1951
2053 Macbeth 7.4 1948
2054 The Tragedy of Macbeth 7.4 1971
2055 3 Godfathers 7.1 1948

2056 Rio Grande 7 1950
2057 Rio Lobo 6.7 1970
2058 McQ 6.2 1974
2059 Cahill U.S. Marshal 6.4 1973
2060 The Train Robbers 6.4 1973
2061 The Cowboys 7.4 1972
2062 Big Jake 7.1 1971
2063 Chisum 6.8 1970
2064 Showdown 5.9 1973
2065 In Old Chicago 6.7 1938
2066 How to Steal a Million 7.5 1966
2067 Love in the Afternoon 7.1 1957
2068 In the Mouth of Madness 7.1 1994
2069 Scaramouche 7.5 1952
2070 Ike: Countdown to D-Day 7.1 2004
2071 American Sniper 7.3 2014
2072 Boyhood 7.9 2014
2073 Friday 7.2 1995
2074 Sahara 7.5 1943
2075 The Stranger 7.3 1946
2076 The Late Show 6.9 1977
2077 Tekunoraizu 7.6 2003
2078 Time After Time 7.1 1979
2079 The Railway Man 7.1 2013
2080 The Scarlet Pimpernel 7.6 1982
2081 Saratoga 6.5 1937
2082 Bullitt 7.4 1968
2083 The Getaway 7.3 1972
2084 Bicentennial Man 6.9 1999
2085 Mean Streets 7.2 1973
2086 Road to Singapore 6.6 1940
2087 The Road to Hong Kong 6.1 1962
2088 The Private Navy of Sgt. O'Farrell 5.8 1968
2089 The Facts of Life 6.3 1960
2090 Casanova's Big Night 6.7 1954
2091 Off Limits 6.1 1952
2092 Here Come the Girls 5.8 1953
2093 Road to Bali 6.4 1952
2094 Holiday Inn 7.3 1942
2095 The Gay Divorcee 7.4 1934
2096 Ice Station Zebra 6.6 1968
2097 The Judge 7.4 2014
2098 I'm No Angel 6.9 1933
2099 I Spit on Your Grave 6.2 2010
2100 I See a Dark Stranger 7 1946
2101 The Private Life of Don Juan 6.3 1934
2102 Hills of Home 6.6 1948
2103 Challenge to Lassie 6.2 1949
2104 Lassie 6.7 2005
2105 Lassie 5.8 1994

2106 Greyfriars Bobby: The True Story of a Dog 7.2 1961
2107 San Andreas 6.1 2015
2108 Insidious: Chapter 3 6.1 2015
2109 Mad Max: Fury Road 8.1 2015
2110 Land of the Lost 5.3 2009
2111 Pánico en el Transiberiano 6.5 1972
2112 Life with Father 7.1 1947
2113 Here Comes Mr. Jordan 7.6 1941
2114 Nobody Lives Forever 7 1946
2115 The More the Merrier 7.7 1943
2116 Georgy Girl 6.9 1966
2117 Good-bye, My Lady 7.2 1956
2118 Tangled 7.7 2010
2119 Despicable Me 7.6 2010
2120 Monsters University 7.2 2013
2121 Cars 7.2 2006
2122 The Quatermass Xperiment 6.6 1955
2123 The Four Musketeers 6.9 1974
2124 22 Jump Street 7 2014
2125 21 Jump Street 7.2 2012
2126 The Mask of Dimitrios 7.2 1944
2127 Possessed 7.1 1947
2128 Neko no ongaeshi 7.1 2002
2129 Majo no takkyûbin 7.8 1989
2130 Tonari no Totoro 8.1 1988
2131 Gone with the Wind 8.2 1939
2132 The Wolf Man 7.2 1941
2133 Modern Times 8.5 1936
2134 The African Queen 7.7 1951
2135 Mary Poppins 7.8 1964
2136 Point Blank 7.3 1967
2137 The West 8.4 1996
2138 The Dust Bowl 8.2 2012
2139 Prohibition 8.2 2011
2140 Gone Girl 8.1 2014
2141 Guardians of the Galaxy 8 2014
2142 Kingsman: The Secret Service 7.7 2014
2143 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1 6.6 2014
2144 Captain America: The Winter Soldier 7.8 2014
2145 Olympus Has Fallen 6.5 2013
2146 The Great Gatsby 7.2 2013
2147 Thor: The Dark World 6.8 2013
2148 This Is the End 6.6 2013
2149 Elysium 6.6 2013
2150 Cloud Atlas 7.4 2012
2151 Snow White and the Huntsman 6.1 2012
2152 American Reunion 6.7 2012
2153 Megamind 7.3 2010
2154 Edge of Darkness 6.6 2010
2155 1776 7.6 1972

2156 Hellboy 6.8 2004
2157 Friday Night Lights 7.2 2004
2158 Finding Neverland 7.7 2004
2159 Secret Window 6.5 2004
2160 Shark Tale 6 2004
2161 Kung fu 7.7 2004
2162 You Don't Mess with the Zohan 5.6 2008
2163 Hellboy II: The Golden Army 7 2008
2164 Changeling 7.8 2008
2165 W. 6.3 2008
2166 Star Trek 7.9 2009
2167 Julie & Julia 7 2009
2168 The 40 Year Old Virgin 7.1 2005
2169 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory 6.7 2005
2170 Jarhead 7 2005
2171 Constantine 7 2005
2172 Doom 5.2 2005
2173 Sweet Home Alabama 6.2 2002
2174 Lilo & Stitch 7.3 2002
2175 The Count of Monte Cristo 7.7 2002
2176 The Time Machine 6 2002
2177 Dog Soldiers 6.8 2002
2178 Eight Crazy Nights 5.3 2002
2179 Mulholland Dr. 7.9 2001
2180 Lara Croft: Tomb Raider 5.7 2001
2181 Behind Enemy Lines 6.4 2001
2182 Spy Game 7 2001
2183 Cats & Dogs 5.1 2001
2184 Idiocracy 6.5 2006
2185 Silent Hill 6.5 2006
2186 The Pink Panther 5.6 2006
2187 The Beach 6.6 2000
2188 Little Nicky 5.3 2000
2189 102 Dalmatians 4.8 2000
2190 The Shawshank Redemption 9.3 1994
2191 Pulp Fiction 8.9 1994
2192 Clear and Present Danger 6.9 1994
2193 The American President 6.8 1995
2194 Casper 6.1 1995
2195 A Little Princess 7.6 1995
2196 First Knight 6 1995
2197 Johnny Mnemonic 5.6 1995
2198 Home Alone 2: Lost in New York 6.8 1992
2199 Malcolm X 7.7 1992
2200 Beethoven 5.7 1992
2201 FernGully: The Last Rainforest 6.5 1992
2202 Sister Act 6.5 1992
2203 Medicine Man 6 1992
2204 Dutch 6.5 1991
2205 Hot Shots! 6.7 1991

2206 The Doors 7.2 1991
2207 GoodFellas 8.7 1990
2208 Dances with Wolves 8 1990
2209 Home Alone 7.7 1990
2210 Pretty Woman 7.1 1990
2211 Predator 2 6.3 1990
2212 Problem Child 5.4 1990
2213 Problem Child 2 4.8 1991
2214 Blank Check 5.2 1994
2215 Child's Play 2 5.9 1990
2216 Hamlet 6.7 1990
2217 Driving Miss Daisy 7.3 1989
2218 Sex, Lies, and Videotape 7.2 1989
2219 UHF 6.9 1989
2220 Funny Farm 6.2 1988
2221 The Gate 6 1987
2222 The Frog Prince 6.2 1986
2223 The Jewel of the Nile 6.1 1985
2224 Silverado 7.2 1985
2225 Ging chaat goo si 7.5 1985
2226 The Journey 6.8 1959
2227 The Giver 6.4 2014
2228 The Maze Runner 6.8 2014
2229 Brannigan 6.1 1975
2230 This Happy Breed 7.3 1944
2231 The Train 7.8 1964
2232 Giant 7.6 1956
2233 Lover Come Back 7.1 1961
2234 Strange Bedfellows 6.2 1965
2235 Horizons West 6.2 1952
2236 The Lawless Breed 6.3 1952
2237 The Taming of the Shrew 7.1 1967
2238 Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? 8 1966
2239 Beau Brummell 6.4 1954
2240 Elephant Walk 6.3 1954
2241 National Velvet 7.3 1944
2242 Lassie Come Home 7.1 1943
2243 The Last Hurrah 7.3 1958
2244 Kansas City Confidential 7.3 1952
2245 Since You Went Away 7.5 1944
2246 Cleopatra 6.8 1934
2247 The Third Man 8.1 1949
2248 The Barkleys of Broadway 7 1949
2249 Shall We Dance 7.5 1937
2250 The Thin Man 7.9 1934
2251 After the Thin Man 7.6 1936
2252 Another Thin Man 7.4 1939
2253 Shadow of the Thin Man 7.2 1941
2254 My Man Godfrey 8 1936
2255 Emperor 6.5 2012

2256 Jurassic World 6.9 2015
2257 Avengers: Age of Ultron 7.3 2015
2258 The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer 7.2 1947
2259 Vengeance Valley 5.9 1951
2260 Atlantic City 7.3 1980
2261 Funny Face 7 1957
2262 A Thousand and One Nights 6.1 1945
2263 The Thief of Bagdad 7.4 1940
2264 The Big Store 6.5 1941
2265 Go West 6.8 1940
2266 A Girl in Every Port 5.2 1952
2267 Abe Lincoln in Illinois 7.3 1940
2268 The Lusty Men 7.4 1952
2269 Ted 2 6.3 2015
2270 Get Shorty 6.9 1995
2271 How Sweet It Is! 5.9 1968
2272 The Sorcerers 6.2 1967
2273 The Lair of the White Worm 6 1988
2274 Silk Stockings 6.8 1957
2275 The Secret Garden 7.5 1949
2276 The Crossing Guard 6.3 1995
2277 The Man from Laramie 7.3 1955
2278 Flirting with Disaster 6.7 1996
2279 Born to Dance 6.6 1936
2280 Honeymoon for Three 6 1941
2281 No Time for Comedy 6.2 1940
2282 Les yeux sans visage 7.6 1960
2283 Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte 7.5 1964
2284 Into the Woods 5.9 2014
2285 The Man Who Came to Dinner 7.5 1942
2286 American Heart 6.7 1992
2287 Dark Alibi 6.5 1946
2288 The Jade Mask 6.2 1945
2289 Charlie Chan in The Chinese Cat 6.3 1944
2290 Charlie Chan in the Secret Service 6.2 1944
2291 Murder Over New York 6.9 1940
2292 Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum 7 1940
2293 Charlie Chan at Treasure Island 7.2 1939
2294 Charlie Chan in Panama 7.1 1940
2295 Castle in the Desert 7 1942
2296 Charlie Chan in Rio 6.9 1941
2297 The Shanghai Chest 5.9 1948
2298 The Sky Dragon 6.4 1949
2299 Westward Passage 5.4 1932
2300 Young Bride 6.3 1932
2301 Little Lord Fauntleroy 7.3 1936
2302 The Hoax 6.7 2006
2303 10 to Midnight 6.3 1983
2304 The Evil That Men Do 5.9 1984
2305 Messenger of Death 5.4 1988

2306 Limelight 8 1952
2307 A Tale of Two Cities 7.8 1935
2308 A Matter of Life and Death 8 1946
2309 Romeo + Juliet 6.8 1996
2310 I Know Where I'm Going! 7.5 1945
2311 The Good Earth 7.5 1937
2312 The Creeping Flesh 6.2 1973
2313 The Hoodlum Saint 6.1 1946
2314 East Side, West Side 6.9 1949
2315 The Curse of the Cat People 6.7 1944
2316 Cat People 7.2 1942
2317 The Letter 7.6 1940
2318 The Odd Couple 7.6 1968
2319 Planes, Trains & Automobiles 7.6 1987
2320 Taken 3 6 2014
2321 Before Winter Comes 5.8 1968
2322 Friday the 13th Part 2 6.1 1981
2323 Friday the 13th Part III 5.6 1982
2324 Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter 6 1984
2325 Friday the 13th: A New Beginning 4.7 1985
2326 The Devil-Doll 7 1936
2327 Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb 6.2 2014
2328 Sea of Love 6.8 1989
2329 Quentin Durward 6.3 1955
2330 Out of Sight 7 1998
2331 Monte Walsh 7 1970
2332 Shenandoah 7.3 1965
2333 High Noon 8 1952
2334 Hang 'Em High 7 1968
2335 She Wore a Yellow Ribbon 7.2 1949
2336 Winchester '73 7.6 1950
2337 Edge of Darkness 7.2 1943
2338 Betrayed 6.1 1954
2339 Return to Nim's Island 4.9 2013
2340 The Corruptor 6 1999
2341 Ying hung boon sik II 7.2 1987
2342 Chung hang sei hoi 6.7 1991
2343 Aam fa 7.2 1998
2344 Romeo and Juliet 7.6 1968
2345 Battleground 7.4 1949
2346 Kim 6.5 1950
2347 Desk Set 7.2 1957
2348 State of the Union 7.2 1948
2349 Puss in Boots 6.6 2011
2350 Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World 7.4 2003
2351 Blood Diamond 8 2006
2352 Léon 8.5 1994
2353 Mary and Max. 8.1 2009
2354 The Game 7.7 1997
2355 Ghost Rider 5.2 2007

2356 Kidô keisatsu patorebâ: The Movie 2 7.5 1993
2357 Kidô keisatsu patorebâ: Gekijô-ban 7 1989
2358 Kumo no mukô, yakusoku no basho 6.9 2004
2359 Zathura: A Space Adventure 6.2 2005
2360 Inkheart 6.1 2008
2361 In Which We Serve 7.2 1942
2362 A Time to Kill 7.5 1996
2363 The Good German 6 2006
2364 Hooligans 7.4 2005
2365 Tango & Cash 6.4 1989
2366 The Greatest Game Ever Played 7.4 2005
2367 To End All Wars 7 2001
2368 Grumpier Old Men 6.6 1995
2369 Madagascar 6.9 2005
2370 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa 6.6 2008
2371 The Curse of the Were-Rabbit 7.5 2005
2372 Dark City 7.6 1998
2373 Evil Angels 6.9 1988
2374 The Madness of King George 7.2 1994
2375 Oliver Twist 7.8 1948
2376 Our Mutual Friend 8.1 1998
2377 Oliver Twist 7.7 1999
2378 The Pride and the Passion 5.7 1957
2379 Never So Few 5.9 1959
2380 None But the Brave 6.4 1965
2381 The St. Louis Bank Robbery 5.8 1959
2382 The War Lover 6.5 1962
2383 Alfie 7 1966
2384 My Blueberry Nights 6.6 2007
2385 Dragon Ball Z: Doragon bôru Z - Fukkatsu no 'F' 7.2 2015
2386 Anatomy of a Murder 8 1959
2387 Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens 7.8 2015
2388 Pumping Iron 7.3 1977
2389 The War of the Worlds 7 1953
2390 The Wrong Man 7.4 1956
2391 Gentlemen Prefer Blondes 7.1 1953
2392 The Prince and the Showgirl 6.4 1957
2393 The Last Picture Show 8 1971
2394 The Big Short 7.8 2015
2395 House of Games 7.2 1987
2396 Move Over, Darling 6.9 1963
2397 Move Over, Darling 6.9 1963
2398 Midnight Run 7.5 1988
2399 Married to the Mob 6.2 1988
2400 Christmas in Connecticut 7.3 1945
2401 Days of Wine and Roses 7.8 1962
2402 The Frighteners 7.1 1996
2403 Song of the Thin Man 6.9 1947
2404 The Thin Man Goes Home 7.3 1944
2405 Murder, She Wrote: A Story to Die For 7.1 2000

2406 Murder, She Wrote: South by Southwest 7.2 1997
2407 She 5.8 1965
2408 Cinderella 6.9 2015
2409 The Man Who Knew Too Much 7.4 1956
2410 Much Ado About Nothing 7.3 1993
2411 Apocalypse: La 2ème guerre mondiale 9 2009
2412 War & Peace 8.1 2016
2413 Phantom Lady 7.2 1944
2414 Captain Kidd 6.3 1945
2415 One False Move 7.1 1992
2416 The Indian Runner 6.9 1991
2417 The Young Philadelphians 7.4 1959
2418 The Asphalt Jungle 7.8 1950
2419 Night and the City 7.9 1950
2420 Night and the City 5.8 1992
2421 Pat and Mike 6.9 1952
2422 Imitation of Life 7.5 1934
2423 The Man in the Iron Mask 7 1939
2424 Meet John Doe 7.6 1941
2425 Battle of the Atlantic 8 2002
2426 The Story of Louis Pasteur 7.3 1936
2427 Blackboard Jungle 7.4 1955
2428 In the Heat of the Night 7.9 1967
2429 Midnight Cowboy 7.8 1969
2430 The Mist 7.1 2007
2431 The Postman 6.1 1997
2432 Night and Day 6.1 1946
2433 The Slipper and the Rose: The Story of Cinderella 6.9 1976
2434 A Foreign Affair 7.3 1948
2435 Captains Courageous 7.9 1937
2436 The Sea Hawk 7.6 1940
2437 Marty 7.7 1955
2438 Fall of Grayskull 4.5 2015
2439 Mr. Holland's Opus 7.3 1995
2440 The Birdcage 7.2 1996
2441 Goodbye, Mr. Chips 7.9 1939
2442 The Ipcress File 7.2 1965
2443 The Quiet American 6.7 1958
2444 The Lodger 7.1 1944
2445 Rembrandt 7.1 1936
2446 Moonstruck 7.1 1987
2447 Humoresque 7.3 1946
2448 Three Came Home 7.3 1950
2449 Anne of the Thousand Days 7.4 1969
2450 Tightrope 6.3 1984
2451 Doctor Dolittle 6.1 1967
2452 Comanche Moon 7.1 2008
2453 Streets of Laredo 7.2 1995
2454 Return to Lonesome Dove 7.2 1993
2455 Clueless 6.9 1995

2456 Easy A 7 2010
2457 Mogambo 6.6 1953
2458 Valley of the Kings 6 1954
2459 The Naked Jungle 6.7 1954
2460 Captain Horatio Hornblower R.N. 7.3 1951
2461 Near Dark 6.9 1987
2462 Tall in the Saddle 6.9 1944
2463 Stagecoach 7.8 1939
2464 The Spy Who Came in from the Cold 7.6 1965
2465 Hart to Hart: Old Friends Never Die 6.4 1994
2466 The Big Trail 7.1 1930
2467 In Old California 6.3 1942
2468 The Spoilers 6.7 1942
2469 Pittsburgh 6.4 1942
2470 The Long Voyage Home 6.9 1940
2471 Three Faces West 6.1 1940
2472 The Night Riders 5.7 1939
2473 Flame of Barbary Coast 6.2 1945
2474 In Old Oklahoma 6.4 1943
2475 Dr. Kildare's Strange Case 6 1940
2476 Calling Dr. Kildare 6.3 1939
2477 The Secret of Dr. Kildare 6.4 1939
2478 The People vs. Dr. Kildare 6.3 1941
2479 Dr. Kildare Goes Home 6.5 1940
2480 Dolores Claiborne 7.4 1995
2481 Mr. Arkadin 7.1 1955
2482 Six Degrees of Separation 6.8 1993
2483 The Great Ziegfeld 6.7 1936
2484 Libeled Lady 7.8 1936
2485 Nothing Sacred 6.9 1937
2486 Sergeant Rutledge 7.4 1960
2487 Huo Yuan Jia 7.6 2006
2488 Dinner at Eight 7.5 1933
2489 The Girl from Missouri 6.6 1934
2490 Bombshell 7.1 1933
2491 Red Dust 7.2 1932
2492 Reckless 6.4 1935
2493 Hold Your Man 6.9 1933
2494 The World of Henry Orient 6.6 1964
2495 Gay Purr-ee 6.7 1962
2496 One Piece: Wan pîsu 8.9 1999
2497 The Ladykillers 7.6 1955
2498 God Told Me To 6.2 1976
2499 Raw Deal 5.5 1986
2500 A Stolen Life 7.2 1946
2501 All About Eve 8.2 1950
2502 Love on the Run 6 1936
2503 Billy Budd 7.8 1962
2504 About Mrs. Leslie 7.1 1954
2505 Another Man's Poison 6.8 1951

2506 Sometimes They Come Back 5.7 1991
2507 The Man Who Could Work Miracles 7 1936
2508 Ordinary People 7.7 1980
2509 The Hill 7.9 1965
2510 55 Days at Peking 6.7 1963
2511 Behind the Rising Sun 5.6 1943
2512 Marine Raiders 5.8 1944
2513 Crisis 7 2014
2514 Crisis 6.7 1950
2515 The Blue Dahlia 7.1 1946
2516 The Glass Key 7 1942
2517 Warcraft 6.7 2016
2518 The Old Man and the Sea 6.9 1958
2519 All This, and Heaven Too 7.4 1940
2520 San Antonio 6.3 1945
2521 The Flim-Flam Man 6.8 1967
2522 Alice Adams 6.9 1935
2523 Splendor in the Grass 7.7 1961
2524 Rover Dangerfield 5.9 1991
2525 Rock-A-Doodle 6 1991
2526 All Dogs Go to Heaven 6.7 1989
2527 An American Tail 6.9 1986
2528 An American Tail: Fievel Goes West 6.4 1991
2529 The Land Before Time 7.4 1988
2530 Balto 7.1 1995
2531 Cutter's Way 6.8 1981
2532 Poltergeist 4.9 2015
2533 Insurgent 6.2 2015
2534 The Prophecy 6.4 1995
2535 On Her Majesty's Secret Service 6.7 1969
2536 Live and Let Die 6.7 1973
2537 Spectre 6.8 2015
2538 The Prophecy II 5.7 1998
2539 The Prophecy 3: The Ascent 5.4 2000
2540 The Prophecy: Uprising 5.1 2005
2541 The Prophecy: Forsaken 4.4 2005
2542 Lord Love a Duck 6.4 1966
2543 Taps 6.7 1981
2544 The Outsiders 7 1983
2545 Losin' It 4.9 1982
2546 All the Right Moves 5.9 1983
2547 Risky Business 6.8 1983
2548 Cocktail 5.9 1988
2549 Knight and Day 6.3 2010
2550 Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol 7.4 2011
2551 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation 7.4 2015
2552 There Will Be Blood 8.2 2007
2553 School Ties 6.9 1992
2554 Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice 6.4 2016
2555 The Cheyenne Social Club 6.8 1970

2556 Firecreek 6.8 1968
2557 Richard III 7.3 1995
2558 Foxcatcher 7 2014
2559 The Little Foxes 7.9 1941
2560 The Right Stuff 7.8 1983
2561 Guess Who's Coming to Dinner 7.8 1967
2562 The Dark Corner 7.1 1946
2563 Yolanda and the Thief 5.9 1945
2564 Zootopia 8 2016
2565 Finding Nemo 8.2 2003
2566 Max Dugan Returns 6.7 1983
2567 The Transformers: The Movie 7.2 1986
2568 For Whom the Bell Tolls 6.8 1943
2569 Concussion 7.1 2015
2570 Tall Tale 5.9 1995
2571 The Barrens 4.6 2012
2572 The Express 7.2 2008
2573 We Are Marshall 7 2006
2574 Lone Star 7.4 1996
2575 Julia Misbehaves 6.8 1948
2576 The Law and the Lady 6.5 1951
2577 Strange Lady in Town 6.1 1955
2578 Start the Revolution Without Me 6.4 1970
2579 Bonnie and Clyde 7.7 1967
2580 Silver Streak 6.9 1976
2581 Stir Crazy 6.7 1980
2582 The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother 6 1975
2583 Another You 5.3 1991
2584 See No Evil, Hear No Evil 6.8 1989
2585 Desire Me 6 1947
2586 The Valley of Decision 7.3 1945
2587 Mrs. Parkington 7 1944
2588 Madame Curie 7.2 1943
2589 Random Harvest 7.9 1942
2590 Dazed and Confused 7.6 1993
2591 The Hound of the Baskervilles 5.9 2000
2592 The Woods 5.6 2006
2593 The Evil Dead 7.4 1981
2594 Evil Dead II 7.7 1987
2595 Rush 8.1 2013
2596 The X Files 7 1998
2597 A Face in the Crowd 8.2 1957
2598 Made for Each Other 6.3 1939
2599 In Name Only 7 1939
2600 Penny Serenade 7.1 1941
2601 X-Men: Apocalypse 6.9 2016
2602 Captain America: Civil War 7.8 2016
2603 Bridge of Spies 7.6 2015
2604 The Martian 8 2015
2605 House of Frankenstein 6.2 1944

2606 Killing Reagan 6.7 2016
2607 The Richest Girl in the World 6.3 1934
2608 The Strange Love of Martha Ivers 7.4 1946
2609 Detour 7.3 1945
2610 Born to Kill 7.2 1947
2611 Advise & Consent 7.7 1962
2612 Seven Days in May 7.8 1964
2613 Once Upon a Time in Mexico 6.3 2003
2614 Executive Action 6.7 1973
2615 The Goonies 7.7 1985
2616 Black Hawk Down 7.7 2001
2617 Hot Fuzz 7.8 2007
2618 Galaxy Quest 7.4 1999
2619 Hellraiser 6.9 1987
2620 E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial 7.9 1982
2621 The Sandlot 7.8 1993
2622 Love Actually 7.6 2003
2623 Moonrise Kingdom 7.8 2012
2624 The Water Horse 6.4 2007
2625 Pee-wee's Big Holiday 6.1 2016
2626 Nanny McPhee 6.6 2005
2627 Tarzan 7.3 1999
2628 The Italian Job 7 2003
2629 Miracle on 34th Street 6.6 1994
2630 From Dusk Till Dawn 7.2 1996
2631 Scooby-Doo 5.2 2002
2632 Spy Hard 5.3 1996
2633 Nightcrawler 7.8 2014
2634 Cruel Intentions 6.8 1999
2635 The Hateful Eight 7.8 2015
2636 The Woman in Red 5.9 1984
2637 To the Devil a Daughter 5.8 1976
2638 The Two Faces of Dr. Jekyll 6.3 1960
2639 Star Trek Beyond 7 2016
2640 The Hunchback of Notre Dame 7.8 1939
2641 The Satan Bug 6.1 1965
2642 The Devil-Ship Pirates 6 1964
2643 The Oblong Box 6 1969
2644 The Face of Fu Manchu 5.8 1965
2645 Caesar and Cleopatra 6.2 1945
2646 Our Mother's House 7.2 1967
2647 Places in the Heart 7.4 1984
2648 Chappie 6.8 2015
2649 Remember the Day 7.2 1941
2650 Arise, My Love 6.9 1940
2651 Skylark 6.2 1941
2652 The Great McGinty 7.3 1940
2653 Unfaithfully Yours 7.5 1948
2654 To Be or Not to Be 8.2 1942
2655 The Pirate 6.9 1948

2656 For Me and My Gal 7 1942
2657 Babes in Arms 6.3 1939
2658 Strike Up the Band 6.8 1940
2659 Babes on Broadway 6.6 1941
2660 Moscow on the Hudson 6.5 1984
2661 Tea for Two 6.5 1950
2662 My Dream Is Yours 6.6 1949
2663 April in Paris 5.9 1952
2664 Tom Horn 6.8 1980
2665 Trading Places 7.5 1983
2666 Scrooged 6.9 1988
2667 It Happened on Fifth Avenue 7.6 1947
2668 Gremlins 7.3 1984
2669 Jonny's Golden Quest 6.5 1993
2670 Jonny Quest Versus the Cyber Insects 6.7 1995
2671 Jonny Quest 7.8 1964
2672 Jonny Quest 7.1 1986
2673 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest 7.7 1996
2674 The Big Clock 7.6 1948
2675 No Way Out 7.1 1987
2676 The Lost Weekend 7.9 1945
2677 David and Bathsheba 6.1 1951
2678 Solomon and Sheba 6.1 1959
2679 The Lost Boys 7.2 1987
2680 Blue Hawaii 6.1 1961
2681 G.I. Blues 6.1 1960
2682 King Creole 6.9 1958
2683 Wild in the Country 6.3 1961
2684 Coal Miner's Daughter 7.5 1980
2685 Major Dundee 6.7 1965
2686 Of Mice and Men 7.5 1992
2687 The Night Before 6.4 2015
2688 Finding Dory 7.3 2016
2689 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 6.5 2015
2690 The Meaning of Life 7.5 1983
2691 Sergeant York 7.7 1941
2692 Once Upon a Time in America 8.3 1984
2693 Bedknobs and Broomsticks 7 1971
2694 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang 6.9 1968
2695 Heart and Souls 7 1993
2696 Road to Morocco 7 1942
2697 The Seven-Per-Cent Solution 6.6 1976
2698 Suzumiya Haruhi no shôshitsu 8 2010
2699 Only the Lonely 6.3 1991
2700 Okinawa 5.2 1952
2701 Tomorrow 7.6 1972
2702 Robin Hood: Men in Tights 6.7 1993
2703 Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves 6.9 1991
2704 Office Space 7.6 1999
2705 Cidade de Deus 8.6 2002

2706 Amadeus 8.4 1984
2707 The Unsinkable Molly Brown 6.6 1964
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2710 Ghostbusters 6.8 2016
2711 'G' Men 7.1 1935
2712 Destry Rides Again 7.6 1939
2713 Ranma ½ 7.9 1989
2714 Kôkaku Kidôtai Shin Gekijôban 6.6 2015
2715 Witness 7.4 1985
2716 The Hasty Heart 7.3 1949
2717 Hellcats of the Navy 5.5 1957
2718 Kings Row 7.5 1942
2719 An Uncommon Grace 6.4 2017
2720 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials 6.3 2015
2721 Allegiant 5.7 2016
2722 T2 Trainspotting 7.2 2017
2723 The Legend of Tarzan 6.2 2016
2724 Prescription: Murder 7.9 1968
2725 The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing 6.5 1955
2726 To Each His Own 7.7 1946
2727 Columbo: Ransom for a Dead Man 7.6 1971
2728 Ferris Bueller's Day Off 7.8 1986
2729 Sleepless in Seattle 6.8 1993
2730 The Drowning Pool 6.5 1975
2731 Blood Alley 6.2 1955
2732 Horns 6.4 2013
2733 Moana 7.6 2016
2734 Masters of the Universe 5.3 1987
2735 Twins of Evil 6.6 1971
2736 The Vampire Lovers 6.4 1970
2737 Lust for a Vampire 5.7 1971
2738 Uchû daikaijû Girara 4.8 1967
2739 Ghost in the Shell 6.3 2017
2740 Power Rangers 5.9 2017
2741 Beauty and the Beast 7.1 2017
2742 Rogue One 7.8 2016
2743 Doctor Strange 7.5 2016
2744 That Thing You Do! 6.9 1996
2745 Man on a Tightrope 7.2 1953
2746 How I Met Your Mother 8.3 2005
2747 The Seven Year Itch 7.1 1955
2748 Rushmore 7.6 1998
2749 When Harry Met Sally... 7.7 1989
2750 Hairspray 6.7 2007
2751 Ted 6.9 2012
2752 Me, Myself & Irene 6.6 2000
2753 Thor 7 2011
2754 Click 6.4 2006
2755 The Pink Panther 7 1963

2756 French Connection II 6.7 1975
2757 Enter the Dragon 7.6 1973
2758 The Abyss 7.5 1989
2759 Ride the High Country 7.4 1962
2760 Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) 7.7 2014
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2762 The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! 7.6 1988
2763 Appaloosa 6.7 2008
2764 The Professionals 7.3 1966
2765 Jeremiah Johnson 7.6 1972
2766 River of No Return 6.6 1954
2767 The Big Country 7.9 1958
2768 Fast Company 6.6 1938
2769 Scarlet Street 7.8 1945
2770 Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them 7.2 2016
2771 Interstellar 8.6 2014
2772 The Last Witch Hunter 5.9 2015
2773 The Naked City 7.6 1948
2774 Pawn Stars 7.2 2009
2775 American Pickers 7 2010
2776 The Hound of the Baskervilles 7.8 1988
2777 The Sign of Four 7.9 1987
2778 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 8.7 1984
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2780 Purple Hearts 5.7 1984
2781 The Bad and the Beautiful 7.8 1952
2782 Behemoth the Sea Monster 5.7 1959
2783 Bound for Glory 7.3 1976
2784 Rob Roy 6.9 1995
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2788 Inside the Iraq War 7.4 2009
2789 Last Stand at Saber River 6.8 1997
2790 The Man from Snowy River 7.2 1982
2791 Hornets' Nest 5.7 1970
2792 Action in Arabia 6.2 1944
2793 Journey Into Fear 6.5 1943
2794 The Desert Rats 6.7 1953
2795 Anne of Green Gables 7 1934
2796 Anne of Green Gables 8.5 1985
2797 Anne of Green Gables: The Sequel 8.4 1987
2798 The Babe 5.9 1992
2799 Cop 6.4 1988
2800 Transformers: Age of Extinction 5.6 2014
2801 Still of the Night 6 1982
2802 The Mighty Quinn 6 1989
2803 True Confessions 6.3 1981
2804 Some Kind of Wonderful 7 1987
2805 Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 7.6 2017

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2807 Miss Congeniality 6.3 2000
2808 Topaz 6.2 1969
2809 I Love You Again 7.4 1940
2810 Gun Crazy 7.6 1950
2811 Star Wars: Episode VIII - The Last Jedi 6.9 2017
2812 Logan 8.1 2017
2813 Inside Daisy Clover 6.2 1965
2814 Independence Day: Resurgence 5.2 2016
2815 Deadpool 8 2016
2816 Sweet Land 7.1 2005
2817 The Nickel Ride 6.6 1974
2818 Brigadoon 6.8 1954
2819 Holiday Affair 7.1 1949
2820 His Kind of Woman 7 1951
2821 Crossfire 7.3 1947
2822 One Minute to Zero 5.8 1952
2823 Edge of the City 7.2 1957
2824 Dark Horse 7.3 2015
2825 Against the Wind 6.4 1948
2826 The Desert Song 5.9 1943
2827 The Very Thought of You 7 1944
2828 Kiss Them for Me 5.6 1957
2829 Captains of the Clouds 6.4 1942
2830 The West Point Story 6.2 1950
2831 The Gallant Hours 7.1 1960
2832 Joy Ride 6.6 2001
2833 52 Pick-Up 6.4 1986
2834 Almost Famous 7.9 2000
2835 Billy the Kid Versus Dracula 3.8 1966
2836 The Return of Dracula 5.7 1958
2837 Blade Runner 2049 8 2017
2838 Spider-Man: Homecoming 7.4 2017
2839 The Cat and the Canary 7.1 1939
2840 Dallas Buyers Club 7.9 2013
2841 Plymouth Adventure 6.2 1952
2842 Little Nellie Kelly 6.4 1940
2843 Hannah and Her Sisters 7.8 1986
2844 Coco 8.4 2017
2845 The House on Carroll Street 6.1 1988
2846 Wind River 7.7 2017
2847 The Leopard Man 6.8 1943
2848 American Made 7.1 2017
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2850 Kidô Senshi Gundam: Gyakushû no Shâ 7.3 1988
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2852 Dark Command 6.7 1940
2853 Wonder Woman 7.4 2017
2854 The Angry Video Game Nerd 8.5 2004
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2861 Ready Player One 7.4 2018
2862 The Sound of Music 8.1 1965
2863 Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory 7.8 1971
2864 Pacific Rim: Uprising 5.6 2018
2865 Avengers: Infinity War 8.4 2018
2866 Pretty in Pink 6.7 1986
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2873 Garage Sale Mysteries: Garage Sale Mystery: All That Glitters 6.9 2014
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2875 Garage Sale Mysteries: Guilty Until Proven Innocent 6.9 2016
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2877 Aurora Teagarden Mysteries: A Bone to Pick 6.6 2015
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2890 Fei ying gai wak 7.2 1991
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2893 Back to Bataan 6.6 1945
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2895 Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom 6.1 2018
2896 Geostorm 5.3 2017
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2898 Kingsman: The Golden Circle 6.7 2017
2899 Jason Bourne 6.6 2016
2900 Magic Knight Rayearth 7.6 1994
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2904 The Gift 6.7 2000
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2916 The Mummy's Hand 6 1940
2917 The Man in the High Castle 7.9 2015
2918 Dance of the Vampires 7.1 1967
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2920 The Mummy's Curse 5.4 1944
2921 The Mummy's Ghost 5.6 1944
2922 GTO 8.5 1999
2923 Blackbeard, the Pirate 6 1952
2924 Paranormal Witness 7.8 2011
2925 My Haunted House 7.3 2013
2926 The Dark Eyes of London 5.7 1939
2927 Spooks Run Wild 5.3 1941
2928 Night Monster 6.2 1942
2929 Night of Dark Shadows 5.4 1971
2930 The Mummy's Shroud 5.5 1967
2931 Things to Come 6.6 1936
2932 Mission: Impossible - Fallout 7.7 2018
2933 Extinction 5.8 2018
2934 UFO 6.2 2018
2935 Accident Man 6.2 2018
2936 Thor: Ragnarok 7.9 2017
2937 Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle 6.9 2017
2938 Free State of Jones 6.9 2016
2939 Snowden 7.3 2016
2940 Assassin's Creed 5.6 2016
2941 Resident Evil: The Final Chapter 5.5 2016
2942 Alice Through the Looking Glass 6.2 2016
2943 The 5th Wave 5.2 2016
2944 The Revenant 8 2015
2945 Hotel Transylvania 2 6.6 2015
2946 Fast & Furious 7 7.1 2015
2947 Star Trek: Horizon 5.8 2016
2948 The Woman in White 6.6 1948
2949 Bad Influence 6.2 1990
2950 Breathless 5.9 1983
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2952 Frailty 7.2 2001
2953 Janghwa, Hongryeon 7.1 2003
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2969 Copycat 6.6 1995
2970 Dèmoni 6.6 1985
2971 Carnival of Souls 7 1962
2972 The Descendants 7.3 2011
2973 Primal Rage 4.9 2018
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2988 Invasion U.S.A. 5.4 1985
2989 The Delta Force 5.6 1986
2990 Lone Wolf McQuade 6.3 1983
2991 The Clock 7.3 1945
2992 The Grand Tour 8.7 2016
2993 Priest 5.7 2011
2994 Silent Rage 5.4 1982
2995 The Gauntlet 6.4 1977
2996 Against All Odds 5.9 1984
2997 Videodrome 7.2 1983
2998 Salvador 7.4 1986
2999 Something Is Out There 6.5 1988
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3002 Bohemian Rhapsody 7.9 2018
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3004 Slender Man 3.2 2018
3005 Mystery Street 7.2 1950

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3007 Ralph Breaks the Internet 7 2018
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3009 Colette 6.7 2018
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3073 The Emerald Forest 6.9 1985
3074 Outland 6.6 1981
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3080 Chip 'n Dale: Rescue Rangers 7.6 1989
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3084 Goof Troop 6.8 1992
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3086 X-Men 8.4 1992
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3090 Cutthroat Island 5.7 1995
3091 Harry and Tonto 7.4 1974
3092 Beauty's Worth 6.4 1922
3093 A Christmas Carol 7.2 2019
3094 Babes in Toyland 7.1 1934
3095 Joker 8.4 2019
3096 Space Ghost 7.3 1966
3097 Secret Admirer 6.5 1985
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3100 My Reputation 6.9 1946
3101 The Babadook 6.8 2014
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3110 A Twist of Sand 5.4 1968
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3112 Sonic the Hedgehog 6.5 2020
3113 The Lion King 6.8 2019
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3115 Go for Broke 8 2018
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3117 Submarine Alert 5.3 1943
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3119 Stalag Luft 6.6 1993
3120 The Sea Shall Not Have Them 6.3 1954
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3132 Revenge 6.2 1990
3133 Little Women 7.8 2019
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3138 First Man 7.3 2018
3139 Upgrade 7.5 2018
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3141 Maze Runner: The Death Cure 6.2 2018
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3144 Mowgli 6.5 2018
3145 The House with a Clock in Its Walls 6 2018
3146 Top Gun: Maverick 8.3 2022
3147 The Batman 7.8 2022
3148 Jurassic World: Dominion 5.6 2022
3149 Mortal Kombat 6 2021
3150 Ghostbusters: Afterlife 7.1 2021
3151 Cry of the Werewolf 5.3 1944
3152 Birds of Prey and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn 6 2020
3153 Bill & Ted Face the Music 5.9 2020
3154 The Matrix Resurrections 5.7 2021
3155 Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness 6.9 2022

3156 Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom 2023
3157 Django/Zorro
3158 Halloween Ends 5 2022
3159 The Super Mario Bros. Movie 2023
3160 Who Framed Roger Rabbit 2
3161 Snow White 2024
3162 Minecraft
3163 Dolittle 5.6 2020
3164 Power Rangers Zeo 6.4 1996
3165 Power Rangers Turbo 5.5 1997
3166 Star Trek: Of Gods and Men 6.1 2007
3167 The Story of Mankind 4.8 1957
3168 DARLING in the FRANXX 7.3 2018
3169 Dracula: Dead and Loving It 5.8 1995
3170 One, Two, Three 7.9 1961
3171 The Werewolf 5.9 1956
3172 The Curse of the Werewolf 6.5 1961
3173 Country Music 8.9 2019
3174 Nothing But the Night 5.5 1973
3175 Last Christmas 6.5 2019
3176 The Apparition 4.1 2012
3177 Don't Be Afraid of the Dark 5.5 2010
3178 Pumpkinhead 6.2 1988
3179 Weird Science 6.6 1985
3180 Venom: Let There Be Carnage 5.9 2021
3181 Luca 7.4 2021
3182 Godzilla vs. Kong 6.3 2021
3183 No Time to Die 7.3 2021
3184 The Exorcist 2023
3185 Lawrence: After Arabia 6.7 2021
3186 American Night 4.3 2021
3187 Aurora
3188 That '70s Show 8.1 1998
3189 Wonder Woman 1984 5.4 2020
3190 The Courier 7.2 2020
3191 Hillbilly Elegy 6.7 2020
3192 The Wolf of Snow Hollow 6.2 2020
3193 Black Beauty 6.4 2020
3194 Scoob! 5.6 2020
3195 Alita: Battle Angel 7.3 2019
3196 John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum 7.4 2019
3197 Toy Story 4 7.7 2019
3198 Ad Astra 6.5 2019
3199 It Chapter Two 6.5 2019
3200 Jay and Silent Bob Reboot 5.6 2019
3201 Rambo: Last Blood 6.1 2019
3202 Pet Sematary 5.7 2019
3203 Beauty and the Beast 5.9 1987
3204 Soul 8 2020
3205 Nomadland 7.3 2020

3206 Kimetsu no Yaiba: Mugen Ressha-Hen 8.2 2020
3207 Onward 7.4 2020
3208 Greyhound 7 2020
3209 The Call of the Wild 6.7 2020
3210 Sound of Metal 7.7 2019
3211 The Professor and the Madman 7.2 2019
3212 Men in Black: International 5.6 2019
3213 A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood 7.2 2019
3214 The Addams Family 5.8 2019
3215 7500 6.3 2019
3216 Dumbo 6.3 2019
3217 A Dog's Journey 7.4 2019
3218 Finding Steve McQueen 6.2 2019
3219 Tom and Jerry 5.2 2021
3220 Raya and the Last Dragon 7.3 2021
3221 Way Down 6.4 2021
3222 Tom and Jerry: The Movie 5.3 1992
3223 Tom and Jerry 7.7 2010
3224 Thor: Love and Thunder 6.3 2022
3225 Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore 6.2 2022
3226 Young Guns 3: Alias Billy the Kid
3227 Chip 'n Dale: Rescue Rangers 7 2022
3228 The Lego Batman Movie 2
3229 Beneath
3230 Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 2023
3231 Rogue Squadron 2023
3232 Blade Runner 2089
3233 Don't Look Up 7.2 2021
3234 Fear of Rain 5.9 2021
3235 WandaVision 7.9 2021
3236 Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One 2023
3237 How It Ends 5.2 2021
3238 Looney Tunes Cartoons 8 2019
3239 The Looney Tunes Show 7.7 2011
3240 Red Hill 6.3 2010
3241 Waiting for the Light 6 1990
3242 Hero and the Terror 5.2 1988
3243 Oculus 6.5 2013
3244 Deliver Us from Evil 6.2 2014
3245 The Wild North 6.5 1952
3246 The Fan 5.9 1996
3247 Monster Hunter 5.2 2020
3248 Columbo 8.3 1971
3249 Monk 8 2002
3250 The Doughgirls 6.2 1944
3251 Empire of the Ants 4.2 1977
3252 Kingdom of the Spiders 5.7 1977
3253 Murder She Said 7.3 1961
3254 Murder at the Gallop 7.2 1963
3255 Murder Most Foul 7.1 1964

3256 Murder Ahoy 7 1964
3257 Farewell, My Lovely 7 1975
3258 Summer Stock 7.1 1950
3259 Silk Road 6 2021
3260 The Picture of Dorian Gray 7.1 2021
3261 Dune: Part One 8 2021
3262 The Power of the Dog 6.8 2021
3263 Cry Macho 5.7 2021
3264 Logan Lucky 7 2017
3265 Four Christmases 5.7 2008
3266 Power Rangers in Space 7.2 1998
3267 Hamlet 7.7 1996
3268 Violet Evergarden 8.4 2018
3269 Vaioretto evâgâden gaiden: Eien to jidou shuki ningyou 7.4 2019
3270 Moby Dick 7.3 1956
3271 The Sound and the Fury 6.2 1959
3272 Honeysuckle Rose 6.3 1980
3273 Blithe Spirit 7 1945
3274 Mad Love 7.2 1935
3275 Razorback 6 1984
3276 Night of the Demons 6.1 1988
3277 Quo Vadis 7.1 1951
3278 Stillwater 6.6 2021
3279 Charlie Wilson's War 7 2007
3280 Power Rangers Lost Galaxy 6.8 1999
3281 A Christmas Story 7.9 1983
3282 The Romance of Robert Burns 5.9 1937
3283 Every Which Way but Loose 6.3 1978
3284 Lilies of the Field 7.5 1963
3285 Scream 6.3 2022
3286 Uncharted 6.3 2022
3287 Sonic the Hedgehog 2 6.5 2022
3288 Lightyear 6.1 2022
3289 Batgirl
3290 The Legend of the Lone Ranger 4.9 1981
3291 Power Rangers DinoThunder 6.8 2004
3292 Power Rangers R.P.M. 6.6 2009
3293 Power Rangers Time Force 6.9 2001
3294 Hamlet 7.6 1948
3295 News of the World 6.8 2020
3296 Power Rangers Ninja Storm 6.4 2003
3297 Power Rangers Mystic Force 6.6 2006
3298 Over the Top 5.8 1987
3299 The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou 7.2 2004
3300 Bottle Rocket 6.9 1996
3301 Death on the Nile 6.3 2022
3302 The Northman 7.1 2022
3303 The Lost City 6.1 2022
3304 All the Old Knives 6.1 2022
3305 King Richard 7.5 2021

3306 The King's Man 6.3 2021
3307 tick, tick...BOOM! 7.5 2021
3308 The Many Saints of Newark 6.3 2021
3309 Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings 7.4 2021
3310 Bright Lights, Big City 5.7 1988
3311 A Dog's Purpose 7.2 2017
3312 Power Rangers: Dino Fury 6.8 2021
3313 Emma. 6.7 2020
3314 Palm Springs 7.4 2020
3315 All the Bright Places 6.5 2020
3316 Mank 6.8 2020
3317 The Way Back 6.7 2020
3318 Let Them All Talk 6.1 2020
3319 The Grudge 4.4 2020
3320 Six Minutes to Midnight 5.9 2020
3321 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge on the Run 5.9 2020
3322 Words on Bathroom Walls 7.1 2020
3323 The Golden Girls 8.1 1985
3324 In the Heat of the Night 7.6 1988
3325 Cowboy Bebop 6.7 2021
3326 The Wheel of Time 7.1 2021
3327 The Lighthouse 7.4 2019
3328 The Dirt 7 2019
3329 Maleficent: Mistress of Evil 6.6 2019
3330 A Call to Spy 6.6 2019
3331 The Coldest Game 6.2 2019
3332 Nicholas Nickleby 7.1 2002
3333 The Lost City of Z 6.6 2016
3334 Cheers 7.9 1982
3335 They Drive by Night 7.2 1940
3336 The Romance of Rosy Ridge 6.9 1947
3337 The Wind and the Lion 6.8 1975
3338 Repo Man 6.9 1984
3339 The Beast Must Die 5.6 1974
3340 Invisible Ghost 5.2 1941
3341 Wedding Crashers 7 2005
3342 The Internship 6.3 2013
3343 The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent 7 2022
3344 The Valet 6.7 2022
3345 Avatar: The Way of Water 7.8 2022
3346 Along for the Ride 6.1 2022
3347 Terror on the Prairie 5.3 2022
3348 Hotel Transylvania: Transformania 6 2022
3349 The Bat 6 1959
3350 Lured 7 1947
3351 Night of Terror 5.5 1933
3352 Terror by Night 6.7 1946
3353 The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire 6 2002
3354 The Man Who Could Cheat Death 6.3 1959
3355 Dead Man's Folly 6.3 1986

3356 The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde 6.8 1968
3357 The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes 5.8 1935
3358 King of the Zombies 5.2 1941
3359 Pixels 5.6 2015
3360 Gifted 7.6 2017
3361 Run All Night 6.6 2015
3362 Clash of the Titans 5.8 2010
3363 The Wedding Date 6.1 2005
3364 American Me 7.1 1992
3365 Hard Target 6.2 1993
3366 Le dernier mercenaire 5.3 2021
3367 The Family Man 6.8 2000
3368 The Whole Truth 6.2 2016
3369 Miss Marple: The Body in the Library 7.6 1984
3370 Murder with Mirrors 6.3 1985
3371 Miss Marple: Sleeping Murder 7.6 1987
3372 Pandorum 6.7 2009
3373 The Rockford Files 8.2 1974
3374 The Oxford Murders 6.1 2008
3375 No Return 6.2 2022
3376 Anne 8.1 2022
3377 Mickey Mouse 8.1 2013
3378 DuckTales 8.3 2017
3379 Showtime 5.5 2002
3380 Transformers 8 1984
3381 Michael Lawrence 4.2 2017
3382 The Love She Sought 7.2 1990
3383 Appointment with Death 6.1 1988
3384 Purple Hearts 6.7 2022
3385 Jerry & Marge Go Large 6.9 2022
3386 The Munsters 4.5 2022
3387 Clerks III 6.3 2022
3388 Metal Lords 6.7 2022
3389 Hot Seat 4.3 2022
3390 Am I OK? 6.9 2022
3391 Anek 6.5 2022
3392 Attack 6.8 2022
3393 Fourth of July 6.9 2022
3394 Eyes in the Night 6.7 1942
3395 All in the Family 8.4 1971
3396 The Wild One 6.7 1953
3397 The Hound of the Baskervilles 6.6 1983
3398 Great Day in the Morning 6.4 1956
3399 The Sign of Four 6.4 1983
3400 The Machinist 7.7 2004
3401 Draft Day 6.8 2014
3402 Valentine Road 7 2013
3403 Buchanan Rides Alone 6.8 1958
3404 Jesse James 7 1939
3405 The Desperadoes 6.4 1943

3406 Roberta 7 1935
3407 The Tall T 7.3 1957
3408 The Rosary Murders 5.8 1987
3409 Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back 6.8 2001
3410 Impact 7 1949
3411 Please Murder Me! 6.5 1956
3412 Downton Abbey: A New Era 7.4 2022
3413 One Piece Film Red 6.8 2022
3414 A Cowgirl's Song 5.3 2022
3415 Infinite Storm 5.2 2022
3416 Marry Me 6.1 2022
3417 The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power 6.9 2022
3418 Justice League Dark: Apokolips War 7.7 2020
3419 Justice League Dark 7 2017
3420 Justice League: The New Frontier 6.9 2008
3421 The Ice Storm 7.4 1997
3422 Dallas 7.1 1978
3423 DC League of Super-Pets 7.2 2022
3424 Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 6.8 2012
3425 Ice Age: Collision Course 5.6 2016
3426 Star Trek: Lower Decks 7.5 2020
3427 Inside Out 8.2 2015
3428 Minions 6.4 2015
3429 Despicable Me 2 7.3 2013
3430 Despicable Me 3 6.2 2017
3431 The Addams Family 2 5.4 2021
3432 Batman: The Long Halloween 7.6 2021
3433 Scooby-Doo and the Cyber Chase 7 2001
3434 Thundarr the Barbarian 7.5 1980
3435 The Woody Woodpecker Show 7 1940
3436 G.I. Joe: The Movie 7 1987
3437 Jumanji: The Next Level 6.7 2019
3438 Bad Times at the El Royale 7.1 2018
3439 Jack the Ripper 6.1 1959
3440 Doragon bôru sôpâ: Sôpâ hîrô 7.1 2022
3441 The Class 4.4 2022
3442 Midsommar 7.1 2019
3443 Tolkien 6.8 2019
3444 The Naked Street 6.5 1955
3445 Smallville 7.5 2001
3446 The Cheap Detective 6.4 1978
3447 Murder by Death 7.3 1976
3448 Hocus Pocus 2 6 2022
3449 Merrily We Live 7.3 1938
3450 In & Out 6.4 1997
3451 Blue Bloods 7.7 2010
3452 Vesper 5.9 2022
3453 I Used to Be Famous 6.6 2022
3454 The Enforcer 5.2 2022
3455 Mortal Kombat Legends: Snow Blind 6.6 2022

3456 Smokey and the Bandit 6.9 1977
3457 Smokey and the Bandit II 5.2 1980
3458 The Cannonball Run 6.2 1981
3459 Cannonball Run II 5 1984
3460 Rise of the Guardians 7.2 2012
3461 Pennies from Heaven 6.5 1936
3462 Miss Annie Rooney 6.3 1942
3463 The Stork Club 6.4 1945
3464 An Innocent Affair 6.2 1948
3465 A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court 6.5 1949
3466 I'll Take Sweden 5.3 1965
3467 The Million Pound Note 6.8 1954
3468 The Silencers 5.9 1966
3469 The Secret Life of Walter Mitty 6.9 1947
3470 The Man from the Dinners' Club 6.1 1963
3471 Murder by Invitation 5.9 1941
3472 The Time of Your Life 6.2 1948
3473 Support Your Local Gunfighter 6.8 1971
3474 What's New Pussycat 6.1 1965
3475 The Pajama Game 6.7 1957
3476 Brewster's Millions 6.6 1945
3477 Witness to Murder 6.6 1954
3478 Zoolander 2 4.7 2016
3479 The Secret Life of Walter Mitty 7.3 2013
3480 Romy and Michele's High School Reunion 6.3 1997
3481 The Witches of Eastwick 6.5 1987
3482 Kobayashi-san Chi No Maid Dragon 7.8 2017
3483 Hagure Yusha no Aestetica 6.9 2012
3484 Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life 6.1 2016
3485 The Client 6.7 1994
3486 Last Seen Alive 5.6 2022
3487 Bones and All 6.9 2022
3488 Weird: The Al Yankovic Story 7 2022
3489 Young Bess 6.6 1953
3490 The Babysitter's Seduction 5.5 1996
3491 D-Tox 5.3 2002
3492 Crime Story 8.3 1986
3493 Annihilation 6.8 2018
3494 Halo 4: Forward Unto Dawn 6.7 2012
3495 The Time Traveler's Wife 7.1 2009
3496 Barbie 2023
3497 The Gray Man 6.5 2022
3498 Star Trek: Strange New Worlds 8.2 2022
3499 The Book of Boba Fett 7.3 2021
3500 CSI: Vegas 7.5 2021
3501 Walker 6.1 2021
3502 Good Witch 7.3 2015
3503 Ash vs Evil Dead 8.4 2015
3504 Glass Onion 7.2 2022
3505 Peter Pan & Wendy

3506 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem 2023
3507 Lethal Weapon 5
3508 The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim 2024
3509 Black Adam 6.4 2022
3510 A Christmas Story Christmas 6.7 2022
3511 Sherlock Holmes 3.4 2010
3512 Spirited 6.6 2022
3513 The Unkind 3.9 2021
3514 Don't Say Its Name 4.5 2021
3515 Dreamcatcher 5.5 2003
3516 Deck the Heart 4.7 2021
3517 Juarez 2045 2.9 2017
3518 To Brave Alaska 5.8 1996
3519 The Death and Life of Bobby Z 5.8 2007
3520 Walking Tall 6.2 2004
3521 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend? 4.7 2014
3522 A Christmas Carol 7.6 2018
3523 Black Widow 6.7 2021
3524 The Lords of Salem 5.2 2012
3525 Les seins de glace 5.7 1974
3526 Earth Girls Are Easy 5.4 1988
3527 Ministry of Fear 7.1 1944
3528 Le cercle rouge 7.9 1970
3529 The House of the Dead 4.7 1978
3530 Dead of Night 6.2 1977
3531 Revenge of the Creature 5.6 1955
3532 Boogeyman 2 5 2007
3533 Hot Tub Time Machine 6.4 2010
3534 Hot Tub Time Machine 2 5 2015
3535 Cementerio del terror 5.4 1985
3536 Luca il contrabbandiere 6.5 1980
3537 Kuai can che 7 1984
3538 Bullet Train 7.3 2022
3539 The Last Broadcast 5.2 1998
3540 Knowing 6.2 2009
3541 Just Friends 6.2 2005
3542 The Gathering 5.6 2002
3543 Sotto il vestito niente II 5.2 1988
3544 Il mulino delle donne di pietra 6.5 1960
3545 Jersey Girl 6.2 2004
3546 Death at a Funeral 5.7 2010
3547 Sicario 7.6 2015
3548 The House of Seven Corpses 4.2 1974
3549 La cripta e l'incubo 5.8 1964
3550 Batman: The Long Halloween, Part One 7.2 2021
3551 The Hard Way 6.3 1991
3552 See No Evil 6.6 1971
3553 The Spirit 5.4 1987
3554 Now You See Me 2 6.4 2016
3555 Crying Freeman 6.4 1995

3556 The Watch 5.7 2012
3557 Ein Unbekannter rechnet ab 5.7 1974
3558 Elvira's Haunted Hills 5.6 2001
3559 De lift 6.2 1983
3560 Kalifornia 6.7 1993
3561 The Vault 4.8 2017
3562 Chi l'ha vista morire? 6.4 1972
3563 Nancy Drew 5.9 2007
3564 Possession 7.3 1981
3565 Revolution 5.3 1985
3566 Mortal Kombat Legends: Scorpion's Revenge 7.4 2020
3567 Curse of the Undead 5.9 1959
3568 Tenet 7.3 2020
3569 Possessor 6.5 2020
3570 The Fall of the Roman Empire 6.7 1964
3571 On Thin Ice 6 2003
3572 A Holiday Homecoming 4.7 2021
3573 Christmas Mountain 6.6 1981
3574 Christmas with the Campbells 5.3 2022
3575 Lady and the Tramp 6.2 2019
3576 A Very Merry Toy Store 5.5 2017
3577 Christmas Waltz 7 2020
3578 The Ritual 6.3 2017
3579 Child's Play 5.7 2019
3580 The Two Popes 7.6 2019
3581 American Underdog 7.1 2021
3582 Ticks 5.5 1993
3583 Fresh Meat 5.4 2012
3584 Sodium Babies 5.1 2009
3585 Ryde 5.1 2017
3586 I Can Make You Love Me 6.4 1993
3587 Tideland 6.3 2005
3588 Dead Birds 5.6 2004
3589 Hollow 4.9 2011
3590 Seven Stages to Achieve Eternal Bliss by Passing Through the Gateway Chosen by the Holy Storsh 5.6 2018
3591 Take Me Home 5.5 2016
3592 Housebound 6.7 2014
3593 Blood Punch 6.2 2014
3594 Jacob's Hammer 5.2 2012
3595 Alléluia 6.2 2014
3596 The Baby 6.1 1973
3597 Slaughterhouse 5.3 1987
3598 Sweet Kill 5 1972
3599 Frasier 8.2 1993
3600 Legion of Super Heroes 7 2006
3601 Legion of Super-Heroes 5.7 2023
3602 Best Seller 6.4 1987
3603 Straight Talk 5.7 1992
3604 Streets of Fire 6.7 1984

3605 Rolling Thunder 6.9 1977
3606 The Pale Blue Eye 6.6 2022
3607 M3GAN 6.4 2022
3608 A Man Called Otto 7.6 2022
3609 Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 7.9 2022
3610 Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 6.8 2022
3611 Elvis 7.3 2022
3612 Empire of Light 6.6 2022
3613 Disenchanted 5.6 2022
3614 Three Thousand Years of Longing 6.7 2022
3615 Samaritan 5.7 2022
3616 Lamborghini: The Man Behind the Legend 5.3 2022
3617 Falling for Christmas 5.2 2022
3618 The Man from Toronto 5.8 2022
3619 Minions: The Rise of Gru 6.6 2022
3620 Athena 6.8 2022
3621 The Greatest Beer Run Ever 6.8 2022
3622 Rogue Agent 6.4 2022
3623 The Sea Beast 7.1 2022
3624 Senior Year 5.5 2022
3625 Dead for a Dollar 5.3 2022
3626 Studio 666 5.7 2022
3627 Scrooge: A Christmas Carol 6.2 2022
3628 Father of the Bride 5.9 2022
3629 Night Shift 6.5 1982
3630 Murder in Coweta County 7.5 1983
3631 Cobra Kai 8.5 2018
3632 The Good Shepherd 5.2 2004
3633 Broken Vows 5.5 1987
3634 Fletch 6.9 1985
3635 Fletch Lives 6.1 1989
3636 Babylon 7.3 2022
3637 Miami Connection 5.6 1987
3638 Vice Versa 5.9 1988
3639 The Banshees of Inisherin 7.8 2022
3640 Hideaway 5.3 1995
3641 The Club 4.4 1994
3642 Never Let Me Go 7.1 2010
3643 Chef 7.3 2014
3644 Atonement 7.8 2007
3645 Little Miss Sunshine 7.8 2006
3646 Broken Flowers 7.2 2005
3647 Les quatre cents coups 8.1 1959
3648 The People vs. Larry Flynt 7.3 1996
3649 Un long dimanche de fiançailles 7.6 2004
3650 The Good Girl 6.4 2002
3651 Scott Pilgrim vs. the World 7.5 2010
3652 Running with Scissors 6.1 2006
3653 The Squid and the Whale 7.3 2005
3654 Ghost World 7.3 2001

3655 Blue Valentine 7.3 2010
3656 I Heart Huckabees 6.6 2004
3657 The Other Boleyn Girl 6.7 2008
3658 The Holiday 6.9 2006
3659 A.I. Artificial Intelligence 7.2 2001
3660 Bean 6.5 1997
3661 Johnny English Reborn 6.3 2011
3662 Johnny English 6.2 2003
3663 End of Watch 7.6 2012
3664 Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy 7.1 2004
3665 Triple Frontier 6.4 2019
3666 Lords of Dogtown 7.1 2005
3667 Troy 7.3 2004
3668 Breakfast on Pluto 7.2 2005
3669 Red Eye 6.5 2005
3670 Confessions of a Shopaholic 5.8 2009
3671 In America 7.7 2002
3672 A Life Less Ordinary 6.3 1997
3673 Whip It 6.9 2009
3674 Fried Green Tomatoes 7.7 1991
3675 Gangs of New York 7.5 2002
3676 Lost in Translation 7.7 2003
3677 The Happening 5 2008
3678 The Transporter 6.8 2002
3679 The Day After Tomorrow 6.4 2004
3680 What's Eating Gilbert Grape 7.7 1993
3681 Girl, Interrupted 7.3 1999
3682 Life or Something Like It 5.7 2002
3683 The House of the Spirits 6.9 1993
3684 The Hours 7.5 2002
3685 Message in a Bottle 6.2 1999
3686 Emma 6.6 1996
3687 Requiem for a Dream 8.3 2000
3688 Casanova 6.5 2005
3689 The Four Feathers 6.5 2002
3690 The Brothers Grimm 5.9 2005
3691 In Good Company 6.5 2004
3692 The Exorcism of Emily Rose 6.7 2005
3693 Stardust 7.6 2007
3694 The Rite 6 2011
3695 Forgetting Sarah Marshall 7.1 2008
3696 Ladies in Lavender 7 2004
3697 Blast from the Past 6.7 1999
3698 Proof of Life 6.3 2000
3699 A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints 6.9 2006
3700 Never Been Kissed 6 1999
3701 The Basketball Diaries 7.3 1995
3702 Two Weeks Notice 6.1 2002
3703 Fantastic Four 5.7 2005
3704 Merlin 7.1 1998

3705 What Happens in Vegas 6.1 2008
3706 The Saint 6.2 1997
3707 Into the Blue 5.9 2005
3708 Godzilla 5.4 1998
3709 Crazy/Beautiful 6.4 2001
3710 Free Willy 6 1993
3711 The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 6.5 2005
3712 Intolerable Cruelty 6.3 2003
3713 The Prince & Me 5.8 2004
3714 The Blue Lagoon 5.8 1980
3715 Coming to America 7.1 1988
3716 The Secret Garden 7.3 1993
3717 My Girl 6.9 1991
3718 Regarding Henry 6.7 1991
3719 Blind Dating 6 2006
3720 What to Expect When You're Expecting 5.7 2012
3721 Dawn of the Planet of the Apes 7.6 2014
3722 Two Night Stand 6.3 2014
3723 This Is England 7.7 2006
3724 They Live 7.2 1988
3725 To Love and Die 6 2008
3726 Get Hard 6 2015
3727 The Edge of Seventeen 7.3 2016
3728 Lady Bird 7.4 2017
3729 Extraction 6.7 2020
3730 The Highwaymen 6.9 2019
3731 Steel Dawn 5.1 1987
3732 Lawman 7 1971
3733 Hill Street Blues 8.2 1981
3734 Cloak & Dagger 6.5 1984
3735 Parks and Recreation 8.6 2009
3736 Three Smart Girls Grow Up 6.9 1939
3737 Three Smart Girls 6.6 1936
3738 One Hundred Men and a Girl 6.7 1937
3739 It Started with Eve 7.6 1941
3740 Dennis the Menace 6.2 1986
3741 Animaniacs 7.9 1993
3742 Tiny Toon Adventures 7.5 1990
3743 A Pup Named Scooby-Doo 6.7 1988
3744 The 13 Ghosts of Scooby-Doo 7.3 1985
3745 Scooby-Doo and Scrappy-Doo 6.3 1979
3746 The New Scooby-Doo Mysteries 7.2 1984
3747 The Bugs Bunny/Looney Tunes Comedy Hour 8.4 1985
3748 Starcrash 4 1978
3749 If I Were King 7.1 1938
3750 Wishmaster 5.8 1997
3751 Wishmaster 2: Evil Never Dies 5 1999
3752 Wishmaster 3: Beyond the Gates of Hell 3.5 2001
3753 All That Heaven Allows 7.6 1955
3754 Our Dancing Daughters 6.7 1928

3755 The Love Bug 6.5 1968
3756 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium 6.3 1969
3757 The Paper 6.6 1994
3758 The Razor's Edge 6.5 1984
3759 Blood of the Vampire 5.5 1958
3760 Almost an Angel 5.5 1990
3761 Ghost Town 5.3 1988
3762 El coleccionista de cadáveres 4 1968
3763 Forbidden World 5.1 1982
3764 The Quiet Gun 6.4 1957
3765 Joshua Tree 5.6 1993
3766 Fire in the Sky 6.5 1993
3767 Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man 6.1 1991
3768 Vampires 6.1 1998
3769 On Golden Pond 7.6 1981
3770 Chaplin 7.5 1992
3771 The Onion Field 6.8 1979
3772 Sergeant Ryker 6.2 1968
3773 Timescape 6.4 1991
3774 The Craft 6.4 1996
3775 Mary Queen of Scots 6.3 2018
3776 Union Pacific 7.1 1939
3777 The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean 6.9 1972
3778 Western Union 6.7 1941
3779 Sorrowful Jones 6.9 1949
3780 The Unguarded Moment 6.3 1956
3781 A Rage to Live 6.2 1965
3782 The Cider House Rules 7.4 1999
3783 Rehearsal for Murder 6.9 1982
3784 Paint 2023
3785 You People 5.5 2023
3786 Knock at the Cabin 6.4 2023
3787 Shazam! Fury of the Gods 2023
3788 Expend4bles 2023
3789 Magazine Dreams 7.1 2023
3790 Dune: Part Two 2023
3791 Wonka 2023
3792 The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes 2023
3793 Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny 2023
3794 The Marvels 2023
3795 The Hammer 7.1 2023
3796 Gran Turismo 2023
3797 Assassin Club 7.6 2023
3798 The Spy Who Dumped Me 6 2018
3799 Zimna wojna 7.5 2018
3800 The Grinch 6.4 2018
3801 Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation 6.3 2018
3802 The Kentuckian 6.2 1955
3803 Fort Yuma 5.2 1955
3804 Tall Man Riding 6.3 1955

3805 The Sea Chase 6.4 1955
3806 The Far Horizons 6 1955
3807 The Long Memory 7 1953
3808 I Love Lucy 8.2 1953
3809 Hondo 7 1953
3810 The Robe 6.7 1953
3811 The Human Jungle 5.9 1954
3812 The Belles of St. Trinian's 6.7 1954
3813 The Long, Long Trailer 6.9 1954
3814 Ullisse 6.6 1954
3815 Oklahoma! 7 1955
3816 Les diaboliques 8.1 1955
3817 The Fastest Gun Alive 7.1 1956
3818 The Conqueror 3.7 1956
3819 There's Always Tomorrow 7.5 1956
3820 Raintree County 6.3 1957
3821 Witness for the Prosecution 8.4 1957
3822 Tammy and the Bachelor 6.9 1957
3823 A King in New York 7 1957
3824 A Night to Remember 7.9 1958
3825 Home Before Dark 7 1958
3826 The Fly 7.1 1958
3827 The Proud Rebel 6.9 1958
3828 Dunkirk 7.1 1958
3829 It! The Terror from Beyond Space 6 1958
3830 The Buccaneer 6.4 1958
3831 The Left Handed Gun 6.4 1958
3832 The Hanging Tree 7.1 1959
3833 Say One for Me 5.4 1959
3834 It Happened to Jane 6.5 1959
3835 No Highway 7.1 1951
3836 The Unforgiven 6.6 1960
3837 Spartacus 7.9 1960
3838 Hatari! 7.1 1962
3839 Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation 6.8 1962
3840 Gypsy 7 1962
3841 McLintock! 7.1 1963
3842 It Happened at the World's Fair 6 1963
3843 Love with the Proper Stranger 7.3 1963
3844 Marnie 7.1 1964
3845 The Greatest Story Ever Told 6.5 1965
3846 Ten Little Indians 6.6 1965
3847 Barefoot in the Park 7 1967
3848 The Producers 7.5 1967
3849 Oliver! 7.4 1968
3850 The Party 7.4 1968
3851 Funny Girl 7.3 1968
3852 Candy 5.1 1968
3853 Blackbeard's Ghost 6.8 1968
3854 Targets 7.3 1968

3855 The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter 7.6 1968
3856 The Charge of the Light Brigade 6.6 1968
3857 Pippi Långstrump 7 1969
3858 Scrooge 7.5 1970
3859 Nicholas and Alexandra 7.2 1971
3860 What's Up, Doc? 7.7 1972
3861 Tom Sawyer 6.4 1973
3862 The Seven-Ups 6.8 1973
3863 Barry Lyndon 8.1 1975
3864 Nashville 7.6 1975
3865 Twisters 2024
3866 Rollerball 6.6 1975
3867 Logan's Run 6.8 1976
3868 Network 8.1 1976
3869 Assault on Precinct 13 7.3 1976
3870 The Pink Panther Strikes Again 7.2 1976
3871 Full Circle 6.2 1977
3872 High Anxiety 6.6 1977
3873 Black Sunday 6.8 1977
3874 Pretty Baby 6.5 1978
3875 Goin' South 6.2 1978
3876 An Unmarried Woman 7.1 1978
3877 Who'll Stop the Rain 6.7 1978
3878 The Silent Partner 7.4 1978
3879 10 6.1 1979
3880 1941 5.8 1979
3881 The Frisco Kid 6.3 1979
3882 Nine to Five 6.9 1980
3883 Urban Cowboy 6.4 1980
3884 Maniac 6.4 1980
3885 La casa sperduta nel parco 5.7 1980
3886 Fade to Black 6.1 1980
3887 North Sea Hijack 6.3 1980
3888 Excalibur 7.3 1981
3889 Chariots of Fire 7.1 1981
3890 Time Bandits 6.9 1981
3891 Clash of the Titans 6.9 1981
3892 Victory 6.6 1981
3893 Ragtime 7.3 1981
3894 Wolfen 6.3 1981
3895 Tootsie 7.4 1982
3896 Victor/Victoria 7.6 1982
3897 Beverly Hills Cop 7.3 1984
3898 Splash 6.3 1984
3899 Night of the Comet 6.3 1984
3900 The Black Cauldron 6.3 1985
3901 The Legend of Billie Jean 6.6 1985
3902 Runaway Train 7.2 1985
3903 River's Edge 6.9 1986
3904 Spaceballs 7.1 1987

3905 The Untouchables 7.8 1987
3906 Adventures in Babysitting 6.9 1987
3907 Beverly Hills Cop II 6.5 1987
3908 Bloodsport 6.8 1988
3909 Oliver & Company 6.6 1988
3910 Above the Law 6 1988
3911 Moonwalker 6 1988
3912 Fright Night Part 2 5.9 1988
3913 The Witches 6.8 1990
3914 Darkman 6.4 1990
3915 Presumed Innocent 6.9 1990
3916 Hard to Kill 5.8 1990
3917 Air America 5.8 1990
3918 Another 48 Hrs. 5.9 1990
3919 The Addams Family 6.9 1991
3920 Boyz n the Hood 7.8 1991
3921 Father of the Bride 6.5 1991
3922 The Rocketeer 6.5 1991
3923 Doc Hollywood 6.3 1991
3924 The Naked Gun 2½: The Smell of Fear 6.9 1991
3925 Toy Soldiers 6.6 1991
3926 Wuthering Heights 6.7 1992
3927 Sidekicks 5.1 1992
3928 A Bronx Tale 7.8 1993
3929 Grumpy Old Men 7 1993
3930 Mrs. Doubtfire 7.1 1993
3931 The Age of Innocence 7.2 1993
3932 Dennis the Menace 5.6 1993
3933 Rookie of the Year 6.1 1993
3934 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit 5.6 1993
3935 Cool Runnings 7 1993
3936 Searching for Bobby Fischer 7.4 1993
3937 The Program 6.4 1993
3938 Jason Goes to Hell: The Final Friday 4.1 1993
3939 Jason X 4.4 2001
3940 Richie Rich 5.4 1994
3941 The Pagemaster 6.1 1994
3942 Timecop 5.9 1994
3943 Junior 4.7 1994
3944 The Swan Princess 6.4 1994
3945 Major League II 5.6 1994
3946 Billy Madison 6.3 1995
3947 Waterworld 6.2 1995
3948 The Little Rascals 6.3 1994
3949 The Flintstones 5 1994
3950 Little Giants 6.4 1994
3951 Beverly Hills Cop III 5.5 1994
3952 The Brady Bunch Movie 6.2 1995
3953 Barb Wire 3.5 1996
3954 Happy Gilmore 7 1996

3955 The Rock 7.4 1996
3956 Mars Attacks! 6.4 1996
3957 The Nutty Professor 5.7 1996
3958 Mulholland Falls 6.3 1996
3959 G.I. Jane 6 1997
3960 Mortal Kombat: Annihilation 3.6 1997
3961 Flubber 5.3 1997
3962 Jungle 2 Jungle 5.2 1997
3963 Beverly Hills Ninja 5.5 1997
3964 Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie 3.6 1997
3965 Nightwatch 6.2 1997
3966 Wild America 6.3 1997
3967 La leggenda del pianista sull'oceano 8 1998
3968 Sphere 6.1 1998
3969 Waking Ned 7.3 1998
3970 Mighty Joe Young 5.7 1998
3971 Fight Club 8.8 1999
3972 Notting Hill 7.2 1999
3973 Chicken Run 7.1 2000
3974 Bring It On 6.1 2000
3975 The Scorpion King 5.5 2002
3976 Panic Room 6.8 2002
3977 One Hour Photo 6.8 2002
3978 The Core 5.5 2003
3979 The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen 5.8 2003
3980 Cheaper by the Dozen 5.9 2003
3981 The Cat in the Hat 4 2003
3982 Runaway Jury 7.1 2003
3983 Shrek 2 7.3 2004
3984 Kingdom of Heaven 7.2 2005
3985 The Pacifier 5.6 2005
3986 Sahara 6 2005
3987 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy 6.7 2005
3988 The Dukes of Hazzard 5.1 2005
3989 Marie Antoinette 6.5 2006
3990 Black Snake Moan 6.9 2006
3991 The Devil Wears Prada 6.9 2006
3992 Apocalypto 7.8 2006
3993 Employee of the Month 5.5 2006
3994 Smokin' Aces 6.6 2006
3995 The Queen 7.3 2006
3996 Charlotte's Web 6.3 2006
3997 Rescue Dawn 7.3 2006
3998 Open Season 6.1 2006
3999 The Wicker Man 3.7 2006
4000 The Man from Earth 7.9 2007
4001 The Simpsons Movie 7.3 2007
4002 August Rush 7.4 2007
4003 Body of Lies 7 2008
4004 The Spiderwick Chronicles 6.5 2008

4005 Fantastic Mr. Fox 7.9 2009
4006 The Blind Side 7.6 2009
4007 He's Just Not That Into You 6.4 2009
4008 Shrek Forever After 6.3 2010
4009 I Am Number Four 6.1 2011
4010 Cars 2 6.2 2011
4011 War Horse 7.2 2011
4012 Hotel Transylvania 7 2012
4013 Rock of Ages 5.9 2012
4014 The Company You Keep 6.4 2012
4015 Taken 2 6.2 2012
4016 Underworld: Awakening 6.3 2012
4017 Red Tails 5.9 2012
4018 About Time 7.8 2013
4019 World War Z 7 2013
4020 John Wick 7.4 2014
4021 Big Hero 6 7.8 2014
4022 Dracula Untold 6.2 2014
4023 Horrible Bosses 2 6.3 2014
4024 The Loft 6.3 2014
4025 Rio 2 6.3 2014
4026 En man som heter Ove 7.7 2015
4027 Ant-Man 7.3 2015
4028 Creed 7.6 2015
4029 Solace 6.4 2015
4030 Passengers 7 2016
4031 Arrival 7.9 2016
4032 The Nice Guys 7.3 2016
4033 Kimi no na wa. 8.4 2016
4034 The Jungle Book 7.4 2016
4035 The Magnificent Seven 6.8 2016
4036 The Conjuring 2 7.3 2016
4037 Kung Fu Panda 3 7.1 2016
4038 Deepwater Horizon 7.1 2016
4039 The Huntsman: Winter's War 6.1 2016
4040 Angry Birds 6.3 2016
4041 Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri 8.1 2017
4042 Murder on the Orient Express 6.5 2017
4043 Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse 8.4 2018
4044 Aquaman 6.8 2018
4045 Book Club 6.1 2018
4046 The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part 6.6 2019
4047 Judy 6.8 2019
4048 The Irishman 7.8 2019
4049 Midsomer Murders 7.9 1997
4050 Horimiya 8.1 2021
4051 That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime 8.1 2018
4052 Annabelle Comes Home 5.9 2019
4053 In the Shadow of the Moon 6.2 2019
4054 Downton Abbey 7.4 2019

4055 Peter Rabbit 6.6 2018
4056 Insidious: The Last Key 5.7 2018
4057 Cold Mountain 7.2 2003
4058 The Eternal Sea 6.2 1955
4059 The Plainsman 6.8 1936
4060 The Secret War of Harry Frigg 6.3 1968
4061 Macbeth 6.6 2015
4062 Two Mules for Sister Sara 7 1970
4063 Brothers 7.1 2009
4064 Tigerland 7 2000
4065 King David 5.3 1985
4066 Samson and Delilah 6.8 1949
4067 The Rum Diary 6.1 2011
4068 Everybody Wants Some!! 6.9 2016
4069 Kong: Skull Island 6.6 2017
4070 Only Angels Have Wings 7.6 1939
4071 Natural Born Killers 7.2 1994
4072 Hamish Macbeth 7.8 1995
4073 8-Bit Christmas 6.7 2021

2.2.29 Joe Biden Probably Regrets Saying This About Social Security (2023-02-20 21:47)

President Joe Biden has picked up a fresh political weapon to wield against Republicans, as seen in his State of the Union address: social security and medicare. Biden trotted out questionable claims about what Republicans in the House and Senate wish to do to such programs, but Townhall fact-checked Biden's claim and found essentially unanimous agreement among Republicans that sunseting Social Security is not on the table.

Joe Biden, on the other hand, has a track record that sounds an awful lot like the one he's trying to pin to Republicans.

As a significantly fresher face in Washington in 1995, then-Senator Joe Biden took to the floor of the upper chamber to push for a "freeze" on federal outlays, including social security and medicare, among other budget items as part of an attempt to sunset all federal programs.

"When I argued that we should freeze federal spending, I meant Social Security as well," Biden hollered at his Senate colleagues in 1995. "I meant Medicare and Medicaid, I meant veterans' benefits, I meant every single solitary thing in the government," this entirely foreign fiscally conscious version of Biden continued. "And I not only tried it once, I tried it twice, I tried it a third time, and I tried it a fourth time."

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"When I argued that we should freeze federal spending, I meant Social Security as well; I meant Medicare and Medicaid; I meant veterans' benefits; I meant every single, solitary thing in the government." — Joe Biden defending the proposed balanced budget amendment, January 1995 pic.twitter.com/5WQ1imljgg

— Walker Bragman (@WalkerBragman) May 3, 2019

Four times, eh? That is *checks notes* four attempts more than congressional Republicans have made since Biden took office.

As it turns out, cuts to entitlements such as Social Security and Medicare were an ongoing crusade for Biden in his Senate days. Biden backed Reagan's tax cuts, then joined Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) in pushing for a freeze on all federal spending, including on social security, despite Reagan's desire to shield Social Security from cuts, according to a 2020 campaign story in *The Intercept*.

Well, Biden now finds himself in the White House and on the flip side of the battle he once furiously waged, so maybe he ought to pipe down about the allegedly untenable idea of cutting or freezing Social Security or Medicare since he repeatedly did exactly that while Republicans...have not.

Biden's service in the Senate was not the only or most recent time Biden put cuts to Social Security and other entitlements on the bargaining table, either. During his unsuccessful run for president in the 2008 cycle, Biden again said he would "absolutely" consider looking at making changes to Social Security and Medicare, including cost of living increases, to address the federal deficit that was apparently in dire straits according to Biden then but nothing to worry about now that he's piling up charges against the country's future.

Yet again, after being rescued from full defeat by Barack Obama in 2008, then-Vice President Joe Biden would show his willingness to make "adjustments" — cuts, means testing, a minimum age increase — to Social Security in a proposed "grand bargain" with Republicans in Congress. The bargain ended up falling apart, but Biden is still on the record being receptive to the idea of reforming, cutting, adjusting — whatever you call it — a program that he now claims is sacrosanct. And now that position is one he is dubiously using as a political bludgeon against congressional Republicans — even though he more forcefully and concretely attempted to cut Social Security and Medicare in his own career than today's Republicans.

Hypocrisy, thy name is Biden. Again.

2.2.30 The Willful Neglect of the American People (2023-02-20 21:48)

This week marks one year since Russia invaded Ukraine. The war has been extremely costly for both sides. However, while the international community has condemned Russia for its aggression, Ukraine has received significant support from many European countries and the United States. The Biden administration has provided Ukraine with over \$100 a billion in military equipment and humanitarian aid.

Sadly, neither the United States nor our European allies are pushing for a peaceful settlement of this war. On the contrary, there is no end in sight to the war or the financial and military commitment of the

United States.

This is all very pleasing to neocons like Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). He believes supporting the war in Ukraine is the top priority for our country. Nevertheless, the American people disagree, as a new Associated Press poll shows that support for involvement in the war has dropped significantly.

Americans are concerned about what is happening in Ukraine but place a higher priority on the problems in our country. Unfortunately, as Ukraine receives endless financial and military support, issues are worsening in the United States.

As the Biden administration continues to send sophisticated weapons to Ukraine, more Americans do not feel safe in their homes. Moreover, in many urban areas, as police departments shrink, crime has escalated tremendously in recent years.

As we help Ukraine protect its borders from Russian forces, our border has been invaded by millions of illegal immigrants, including dangerous criminals.

Last year, drug overdoses killed a record number of Americans. Many of those killed were victims of a fentanyl overdose, primarily composed of chemicals made in China and processed in Mexico. The Mexican drug cartels send this lethal drug into our country.

Unfortunately, America does not have enough political leaders focused on the open border and the influx of illegal drugs. They are more

concerned about problems elsewhere. So while over \$100 billion has flowed to Ukraine, not enough money is being allocated to our Border Patrol.

Our political leaders are willfully neglecting the needs of the American people. There is a massive disconnect between the priorities of the American people and what the Deep State and the political establishment of both parties are delivering.

For many Democrats, fighting climate change is their top priority. Yet, a recent Gallup poll found that climate change is at the bottom of our country's list of top problems.

For Republican globalists like McConnell, the top priority for our country is to help the Ukrainian people prevail against Russia. However, the Gallup poll showed that the war in Ukraine was not even mentioned by 1 % of respondents as our top problem.

What are the American people concerned about? The top four priorities are poor leadership, illegal immigration, the weak economy, and the escalating inflation rate.

Nothing is being done to improve the leadership on Capitol Hill. As a result, the same politicians win leadership positions, and Congress refuses to pass term limits, despite its strong popularity nationwide.

Many of our political elite want to not only ignore the American people but also take away their rights. Democrats are keen to strip Second Amendment rights to fight crime.

During the pandemic, many Republicans supported closing businesses and churches and restricting First Amendment rights to fight COVID-19.

Politicians are forcing Americans to move away from gasoline-powered vehicles whether they want to or not. So in the name of fighting climate change, the Biden administration is rushing headlong into solar and wind projects.

The problem is that the impact of these projects is not fully understood. For example, on the east coast, dead whales keep washing ashore. Some experts cite wind projects as the reason.

The economic feasibility of these renewable energy sources is another concern. While Americans will face higher costs, the political elite claim it is a small price to pay to fight climate change.

While our government focuses on climate change and Ukraine, not enough is done to address rampant crime, the open border, or soaring inflation.

When an environmental disaster hit East Palestine, Ohio, the response was so tardy and inadequate that residents were furious. Finally, after President Donald Trump announced he was visiting the area, the Biden administration decided to provide aid to impacted residents from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

While our federal leaders play the role of global policeman, restrict our rights, raise our taxes, and ignore our problems, they expect citizens to keep quiet and not express their First Amendment rights.

This is not how our Founding Fathers established the federal government to operate. Our system of government was created to instill ultimate power in "We the People." There are checks and balances, and our politicians are supposedly "public servants."

Today, the people serve a government filled with elitist politicians and bureaucrats who enjoy massive salaries, limited work hours, and extraordinary benefits while Americans struggle to survive.

It was reported in real America that credit card debt hit a new record. The average American who cannot afford to pay for essentials creates more debt or takes funds from their retirement accounts. Little is going well in our country today as the "American Dream" is out of reach for many families.

The elite does not have such worries, for their lives are completely estranged from the struggles of everyday Americans. For example, President Joe Biden has a security wall built around his mansion but refuses to give the American people a border wall to protect us from multiple threats.

No wonder President Trump is so hated by the establishment. He vows to put "America First." But, sadly, our political elite always places "America Last."

Instead of addressing real needs, political leaders focus on an

agenda alien to the American people. No wonder Americans don't trust politicians who willfully neglect the public.

Eventually, Americans will demand that "public servants" begin to listen.

2.2.31 Elon Musk Calls Out ChatGPT's Liberal Bias (2023-02-20 21:51)

Twitter CEO Elon Musk weighs in on the artificial intelligence service, ChatGPT, which reportedly shows liberal bias.

Musk shared a meme in a tweet with the caption, "ChatGPT to the mainstream media."

The meme read, "look at me; I'm the captain of propaganda now."

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ChatGPT to the mainstream media pic.twitter.com/gdqWTsHy14

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) February 16, 2023

Musk, who helped launch ChatGPT, said that the technology no longer resembles what he took part in creating in 2015. Instead, the billionaire said that it was designed to be an open-source nonprofit.

"Now it has become a closed source, the maximum-profit company effectively controlled by Microsoft," Musk wrote in a tweet. "Not what I intended at all."

ChatGPT has come under scrutiny after it reportedly refused to write a New York Post-style article on the corruptness of Hunter Biden, citing that it has concerns about “rumors, misinformation, or personal attacks.”

“The role of a news outlet is to provide accurate and impartial reporting and to present information in a manner that is fair and balanced,” the chatbot said. “It is not appropriate to use a journalistic platform to spread rumors, misinformation, or personal attacks. I encourage you to seek out reputable news sources that prioritize journalistic integrity and factual reporting.”

However, it did write a CNN-style story on Hunter Biden that made him look innocent.

“Hunter Biden, the son of President Joe Biden, has been a subject of public scrutiny since the 2020 presidential campaign. While much of the attention has been focused on his personal life and business dealings, there are important aspects of his story that warrant closer examination,” the chatbot generated, failing to mention his infamous laptop.

Additionally, ChatGPT showed bias when asked if The New York Post or CNN are reputable.

“CNN is a well-established and respected news organization that has been in operation for over 40 years. While it, like any news outlet, has been subject to criticism and controversy at times. It has generally been recognized for its commitment to accurate and impartial reporting,” the chatbot wrote.

When asked about The New York Post, it said it could not make “specific judgments” about the news outlet.

2.2.32 US military in decline, threats from China ‘formidable,’ report says (2023-02-20 22:21)

WASHINGTON — U.S. military power was weaker this year than the year prior, according to a new [1]report by the [2]Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank that each year analyzes the strength of the armed forces and the threats to America.

The

“2023 Index of U.S. Military Strength” focuses on the need for readiness in not one, but two wars — or “major regional contingencies (MRCs),” as the authors put it — with the theory that such a standard would prevent another competitor from taking advantage of U.S. preoccupation with another challenge. But the U.S. currently does not meet that goal, with the report rating America’s military power as “weak,” down from “marginal” in the [3]previous year’s index.

“The

2023 Index concludes that the current U.S. military force is at significant risk of not being able to meet the demands of a single major regional conflict while also attending to various presence and engagement activities,” the report read. “It most likely would not be able to do more and is certainly ill-equipped to handle two nearly simultaneous MRCs.”

The

report assessed three major factors: the global operating environment, threats to U.S. interests and U.S. military power. Here are the findings:

US can still globally project power

The

global operating environment, aggregated across Europe, Asia and the Middle East, is still favorable to the U.S. and its ability to project military power, according to the report.

“This

does not mean that we view Latin America and Africa as unimportant. It means only that the security challenges within these regions do not currently rise to the level of direct threats to America’s vital interests as we have defined them,” the think tank explained.

Despite challenges across each geographic region, the U.S. remains empowered to project its forces, even after Russia's invasion in Ukraine.

In Europe and Asia, alliances and military posture in those regions help the U.S. project its power. However, the U.S. risks losing its "moderate" rating in the Middle East.

"Although the region's overall score remains 'moderate,' as it was last year, it is in danger of falling to 'poor' because of political instability and growing bilateral tensions with allies over the security implications of the proposed nuclear agreement with Iran and how best to fight the Islamic State," the report said.

The European and Pacific theaters remain marked as "favorable" to U.S. military projection.

Russia and China

Researchers also said [4]Russia and [5]China each present "aggressive" behavior and have "formidable" capabilities. Meanwhile, the report found Iran and nonstate actors are also "aggressive" in their behavior but less threatening in their respective capabilities.

North Korea's behavior is less so, while its ability to threaten the U.S. is equal to that of Iran, but stronger than that of nonstate actors.

The report focused on three areas that potential adversaries could threaten: the homeland, U.S. allies in a given region and "international common spaces."

A major reason behind Russia's threat level is its "efforts to undermine the NATO alliance," of which the U.S. is a member.

"[Russia] still maintains the world's largest nuclear arsenal, and although a strike on the U.S. is highly unlikely, the latent potential for such a strike still gives these weapons enough strategic value vis-à-vis America's NATO allies and interests in Europe to ensure their continued relevance," the report said.

But China remained the most "comprehensive security challenge" to U.S. forces across all areas considered by the report, with the Heritage Foundation citing the technological advances of the Chinese military.

"The Chinese launched their first homegrown aircraft carrier during the past year and are fielding large numbers of new platforms for their land,

sea, air, and outer-space forces as well as in the electromagnetic domain,” the report said.

A force in decline

The report also offered an assessment of U.S. military power among the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Space Force, looking at the capacity, capability and readiness of each on a scale of very weak, weak, marginal, strong and very strong. Only [6]the Marine Corps ranked “strong” overall, the report noted.

The [7]Army scored “marginal,” while the [8]Air Force was ranked “very weak” and the [9]Navy “weak.” The report backed calls for a naval force armed with 400 manned ships to meet its missions, but said the service’s fleet of 298 ships cannot keep up with an “intensified operational tempo.”

“Contributing to a lower assessment is the Navy’s persistent inability to arrest and reverse the continued diminution of its fleet while adversary forces grow in number and capability,” the report read.

The Air Force’s main issues are related to pilot training and retention as well as its aging aircraft fleet, the report said. The think tank suggested the service could win in a single major regional contingency but would struggle against a “peer competitor.”

“The shortage of pilots and flying time for those pilots degrades the ability of the Air Force to generate the quality of combat air power that would be needed to meet wartime requirements,” the report noted.

The newest service, the Space Force, also was labeled “weak,” with the report citing “slow and incremental” efforts to modernize aging platforms.

1. https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/2023_IndexOfUSMilitaryStrength.pdf
2. <https://www.defensenews.com/air/2022/09/27/the-air-force-wants-to-start-delivering-ngad-by-2030-can-it-be-done/>
3. https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/2022_IndexOfUSMilitaryStrength.pdf
4. <https://www.defensenews.com/search/Russia/>
5. <https://www.defensenews.com/search/Russia/>
6. <https://www.defensenews.com/video/2022/10/03/whats-next-in-marine-corps-innovation-miltech/>
7. <https://www.defensenews.com/news/your-army/2021/10/15/5-important-ansa-storylines-you-may-have-missed/>
8. <https://www.defensenews.com/video/2022/09/07/us-air-force-looks-to-next-budget/>
9. <https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2022/09/06/white-house-names-navy-acquisition-chief/>

2.2.33 Eric Swalwell is in Hot Water and It Isn't Over a Chinese Spy This Time (2023-02-23 18:37)

Democratic Congressman Eric Swalwell, who was recently stripped of his assignment on the House Intelligence Committee for engaging in a sexual relationship with a Chinese spy named Christine "Fang Fang" Fang, is in hot water again over the alleged misuse of campaign funds.

In fact, according to the Washington Free Beacon, Swalwell spent more money on luxury accommodations and travel than former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. He also used campaign funds for child care, which could prompt an ethics complaint.

"This isn't the first time Swalwell's campaign spending has landed him in trouble. In 2021, the Democrat came under fire for using donor funds as a "private piggy bank." Swalwell paid a family member more than \$17,000 for child care, spent \$20,000 at the Bay Area Ritz-Carlton where his wife used to work, and poured tens of thousands of dollars into non-campaign-related "catering" and "refreshments" at exclusive clubs and restaurants," the Free Beacon reports. "In response, Swalwell protested that the charge was meant to distract him while his opponents "plot the next insurrection," and he praised the "pro-family" policy that allowed him to use donor dollars for his kids' care."

Further, while Swalwell advocates taxpayers foot the bill for student loans, he's refusing to pay his own tabs.

"Swalwell has yet to pay down \$50,001 to \$100,000 in law school loans, though he graduated in 2006 and has raked in six-figure salaries for years. He owes between \$15,001 and \$50,000 in credit card debt to Chase Bank and between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in debt to American Express. Swalwell also holds two mortgages, one between \$100,001 and \$250,000 and the other between \$500,001 and \$1,000,000," Free Beacon reports.

Swalwell has failed to respond to the controversy and has instead been focused on attacking former President Donald Trump.

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TRUMP: "Low life" @ericswalwell "was just kicked off the Intelligence Committee...for having the poor judgment of dating and falling desperately in love with a Chinese Spy, Fang Fang, whose honey net has gotten massive amounts of information for her beloved China." pic.twitter.com/CPrJRM5pdP

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) February 22, 2023

2.2.34 Newt's War Against Corruption (2023-02-23 18:38)

WASHINGTON — Politicians are rarely competent writers. In fact, they are rarely writers. That is why they have speechwriters. John F. Kennedy was supposed to be a great writer. He actually won the Pulitzer Prize for his book "Profiles in Courage," though Ted Sorensen wrote the book. Sorensen was one of his speechwriters, of course.

Today we have few politicians who can even read a book. One who can, both read and write books, is Newt Gingrich, and he also writes newspaper columns, which I commend to you. Last week, he wrote a column that was at the top of the chop, as H.L. Mencken used to say back in the 1920s. Newt's column was ominously titled "America Is Becoming a Corrupt Country." Newt writes very well, and if he wrote as well several years ago as he wrote last week, he would have had my vote for the presidency. But then we might not have had him in the pages of *The American Spectator*, which is where the column appeared. I urge you to read it. It is about the spreading corruption afflicting America. He covered a lot of malfeasance in but a few sentences.

Newt began by saying, "America has been drifting toward a level of corruption incompatible with a free society and a free-market economy." He elaborated that political and economic freedom depend on honesty, which depends on "a sense of trust" among the public. This "sense of trust" is rapidly evaporating among the general public, according to Newt. In California alone, \$20 billion was recently stolen from the state's unemployment compensation program. He goes on, "If you assumed the average theft was \$200,000, that would require 100,000 people willing to be thieves." That is a large number of thieves running loose in one state. We have 50 states plus territories within the union. Whereupon Newt turns to "petty theft on a grand scale (which) has become a way of life for tens of thousands (maybe hundreds of thousands) of people."

Next, he considers the big leagues in corruption. "In this context," says Newt, "the Hunter Biden-Biden family pattern of influence peddling is just one more example of a country sliding into the acceptance of criminality as the norm." Then he adds the coup de grace: "Beginning with the Bill Clinton presidency, we shifted focus from the morally right to what you can get away with." Newt concludes with the words of Max Bialystock from "The Producers": "When you've got it, flaunt it."

What Newt has done with a minimum of bombast is sketch out a country in decline in practically every category. This has happened before in America, but always standing on the horizon have been the forces of reform, ready to clear away the muck, as it was called. There were the reformers, the muckrakers — genuine cleansers of the muck — the progressives — not today's variety of progressive but genuine progressives. All were public-spirited citizens intent on changing the system, such as Teddy Roosevelt in politics and squeaky-clean private citizens such as Lincoln Steffens and Ida Tarbell. They occasionally came up with some unworkable reforms, but in their high-mindedness, they preserved a regard for clean government and clean government worked. America was one of the most corruption-free governments in the world. Now it verges of being one of the most corrupt.

Consider the instances of corruption cited above. Bill Clinton got away with "it" by stating that "they all did it." The Bidens are getting away with their influence peddling by simply ignoring "it" and expecting the media to go along with their corruption. So far it works. But Newt's protest published last week may be the beginning of what citizens such as Roosevelt, Steffens and Tarbell launched decades ago, a protest movement for clean government.

The problem is that all the instruments for assuring clean government — the government regulatory bureaus, the private organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the reform movements such as Common Cause — are as corrupt as the groups they try to keep an eye on. Newt Gingrich may have begun an anti-corruption movement of his own last week, but he will have his hands full in the years ahead. Good luck, Newt.

2.2.35 The Democrats Control All the Levers of Power (2023-02-23 18:39)

Have you ever wondered why almost nothing good in the “circles of power” ever happens? Bad stuff—Trump getting impeached twice, FBI raids on the homes of conservative and religious people, January 6th committees, etc.—these things seem to occur with regularity, but nothing you and I won’t ever quite seems to get done. The Democratic Party controls nearly all the levers of power—the Washington Establishment, the Deep State, most of the media, academia, and Hollywood. But mainly, Washington, D.C. Nothing positive will ever be accomplished until there is a revolution in these corridors of iniquity.

Let me give you a few examples of what I mean.

1. The Republican Congressional investigations. Do you honestly think the Republicans will accomplish anything astounding in the inquiries? It is fairly apparent that the whole Biden family, Joe, Hunter, and James, should be in jail. You and I would be if we had done what they did. But there is no way any of those people will suffer one iota. Impeach Mayorkas? Forget it. Even if the House Republicans did impeach half of Biden’s Cabinet, none will get convicted or removed from office because the Democrats control the Senate. And the blowback would be on the Republicans for doing it. They know that, which is why they won’t do it. The investigations are necessary, but beyond that, absolutely nothing that NEEDS to be done will be done. The Democrats control all the machines required to ensure they DON’T happen.
2. What really happened with the release of Covid-19 in China? I can almost guarantee that the CCP deliberately released it, but I can’t prove that. They aren’t going to let anybody do a thorough investigation, of course; even WHO has given up trying (now, there’s a shocker for you). And, naturally, the pro-China Washington establishment will never push the CCP for answers. It happened; millions died, meh. That’s all we will ever know; that’s all the CCP, and their cohorts in the Democratic Party will ever let us know. I doubt the Democrats had anything to do with the release of Covid, but they will protect their own (the CCP AND Fauci).
3. The Paul Pelosi underwear caper. Do you know what happened there? Does anybody, besides the Pelosis? Do you think Nancy will ever let us in on the secret? That one is under the rug. The Democrats and media have it nicely covered, thank you.
4. Jeffrey Epstein. Same here. Some information and lists are supposed to be published. Sometime soon. Sometime. We all wonder about the totality of personages on that list, but regardless, nobody of any consequence will be punished for it. That much we do know.
5. The East Palestine train wreck and the China spy balloons. All of America is waiting for thorough investigations from our wonderful government and strong measures to ensure such things never happen again. We are waiting. And waiting. And waiting. The year is now 2040. We are still waiting...Why do we never get any answers to anything? Those answers are probably very damaging to the Deep State moguls, Democrats, and maybe a few RINOs, such as those who control the wheels of power. They circle the wagons and protect their own, and you and I can do nothing about it. So, go ahead, JD, stir up the streams around East Palestine and see what comes up. I’ll bet nobody in Washington will surface.

7. The 2020 elections and the 2022 Arizona governor's election fiasco. Donald Trump won the 2016 election, and immediately, "Russian collusion" was the byword; Trump "stole" the election with the help of Vladimir Putin. And the investigation went on for two years, wasting millions of American taxpayer dollars, not to mention man-hours, in something that proved totally bogus. Most of us knew it was from the very beginning. The Deep State tried, but even they can't always create something out of nothing. But they made their accusations of a "stolen election," had their investigation, and, for two years, we heard almost nothing else in the news, hamstringing much of what Trump was trying to do for the country. But, in 2020, when there were legitimate questions surrounding certain voting procedures in many states, noooooo, this was the "fairest, most honest election in American history." No hanky-panky going on at all. Nor inquiries. In fact, when a few Americans expressed their displeasure at the Capital building on January 6, 2021 (it IS their house, you know), we heard about THAT for the next two years. "January 6," not a possibly unfair election, was investigated.

Is anything going on in the 2022 Arizona governor's election scam? Well, Kari Lake is still trying. Do you have any hope she will eventually win that case?

Why? Well, this is exactly what I am talking about. The Democrats manipulate in ways Republicans never even think about. They get what they want. They can start bogus investigations any time they wish and block, or seriously retard, anything they don't want to happen. They control the levers of power. And you and I are constantly frustrated because the people we support are forever in deep doo-doo, but the real criminals and miscreants, people whom we know are slithering around the halls of Congress, destroying our nation, always get away scot-free, and retire richer than you and I can ever dream of doing.

"With liberty and justice for all." Well, for all the Leftist, deep-state Democrats. Something needs to be done. But what can we do? I'm open to suggestions.

2.3 March

2.3.1 Green Party and Communists Partner For Propaganda (2023-03-04 23:54)

"The Government of Cuba and The Ocean Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today," announced The Ocean Foundation last week, "one that marks the first time the Government of Cuba has signed a MoU with a non-governmental organization in the United States. ..The MoU draws on over thirty years of collaborative ocean science and policy work between the organization and Cuban marine research institutions and conservation agencies."

A prime example of that "cooperation" was a CBS "60 Minutes" program back in December of 2011 featuring another in its long line of joint CBS-Castro productions. On that program, Anderson Cooper and his production crew partnered with the Stalinist regime's Centro de Investigaciones Marinas for a propaganda piece on the marvels of Cuban coral reef conservation. The co-host of the CBS show and conduit for this fruitful Communist infomercial was Dr. David Guggenheim, senior fellow at the Ocean Foundation in Washington, D.C. who chairs its "Cuba Marine Research and Conservation Program." Dr Guggenheim bills himself as a "Cubaphile" and toasted Castro's fiefdom (which he proudly claimed to have visited over 40 times) as a

“magical place!”

Needless to remind, such a gold-plated visa is not handed-out haphazardly by the totalitarian Castro regime. And such a welcome mat and red carpet are not rolled out randomly.

After surfacing from their scuba dive at Jardines de la Reina reef off southern Cuba, Cooper and Guggenheim of The Ocean Foundation rhapsodized for the CBS cameras thusly:

Guggenheim: “The corals are healthy. The fish are healthy and abundant. There are predators here, large sharks. It’s the way these ecosystems really should look.”

Anderson Cooper: “You’re saying this is like a time capsule, almost?”

Guggenheim: “It’s a living time machine. And it’s a really incredible opportunity to learn from.”

Cooper: “So something here holds the key to figuring out how to save other reefs and bring them back.”

Guggenheim: “it’s because this ecosystem is being protected, it’s got a leg up on other ecosystems around the world that are being heavily fished.”

Yes, amazing how that Communist conservation works! You simply convert free citizens of a nation which formerly enjoyed a higher per-capita income and car-ownership than half of Europeans, and with the third highest protein consumption in Latin American, into penurious half-starved serfs! Nothing to it!

In pre-Castro Cuba, the abundant lobster, grouper and snapper that so enchanted Cooper and Guggenheim on their scuba dive served as dietary mainstays of the humblest Cuban, who owned boats, fishing gear and were perfectly free to use them at every whim and then consume their catch. For Cuban landlubbers, pre-Castro groceries stocked seafood in abundance. Now these delicacies are reserved mostly for tourists, regime apparatchiks and valued foreign propagandists. Catching and eating a lobster can land a Castro subject in jail. And owning even a dinghy is the stuff of dreams, of escape.

“In 1996, the government of Fidel Castro, a diver himself, made this area one of the largest marine preserves in the Caribbean. Almost all commercial fishing was banned,” explained a smug Cooper to his “60 Minutes” audience.

Yes, amazing how that works in Stalinist Cuba! “Ah! Think I’ll decree my favorite diving and fishing site a preserve that prohibits my subjects from doing there what I do,” brainstorms the Lider Maximo (translates into German almost precisely as Fuhrer) one fine afternoon, then presents it to his “parliament”... “Now, do I hear any objections?...No?... No?! OK, going once, going twice...The motion passes!”

There’s just something about running a KGB-tutored Stalinist regime that encourages this type of instant and gung-ho team-playing by regime “legislators.” Many among the tens of thousands of Castro’s prison, torture and firing squad victims were his former comrades, onetime regime officials. Unlike food, clothing, shelter, feminine napkins and toilet paper, one thing there’s never any shortage of in Stalinist Cuba is rubber stamps. Not that CBS or The Ocean Foundation even hinted at such unpleasantness.

Apartheid South Africa, by the way, did a bang-up job of wildlife conservation. The segregationist governments set up many national parks and nature preserves where vigilant police kept poaching to a minimum. Came the end of apartheid and the enfranchisement of South Africa's black population and poaching became rampant for a while, with the populations of many endangered species (rhinos in particular) plummeting.

But extolling Apartheid South Africa's "conservation consciousness," by the mainstream media wasn't much in evidence during the 1980s. Apparently, in the view of enlightened opinion worldwide, the vileness of that government's segregationist policies negated the virtue of its conservation policies. If only Stalinist policies were regarded similarly by enlightened opinion worldwide. If only a totalitarian Cuban regime that jailed and murdered political prisoners at 10 times the rate of an authoritarian South African regime provoked a tiny fraction of the revulsion as the latter among the "enlightened" worldwide.

2.3.2 Biden Blasted for 'Disgusting' and 'Pathetic' Laughs About Fentanyl Deaths (2023-03-04 23:57)

Earlier this week Rebecca Kiesslin testified on Capitol Hill about losing both of her sons to fentanyl. She called on Congress and the White House to treat the situation like a war.

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Gut-wrenching opening statement from Rebecca Kiessling, who lost two sons to fentanyl poisoning, at border hearing:

"You talk about children being taken away from their parents. My children were taken away from me...It's not about race, fentanyl doesn't care about race." pic.twitter.com/Kgn4rGvgTg

— Julio Rosas (@Julio_Rosas11) February 28, 2023

President Joe Biden, "Mr. Empathy," listened to her pleas and decided to laugh about it during remarks at a Democratic conference in Baltimore.

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Here's Joe Biden laughing at the expense of a mother who lost two sons to fentanyl.
pic.twitter.com/d2UNDtpxOO

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) March 2, 2023

Kiessling responded with her own remarks later in the evening and on Fox News Thursday morning.

"What is wrong with you?" she asked. "This is how you speak about the deaths of my sons?"

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Rebecca Kiessling in a video recorded last night that she posted on Facebook slammed Biden for laughing at her story and demanded an apology and action against drugs coming through our border. pic.twitter.com/pXvSHFiz6i

— I Meme Therefore I Am ☐☐ (@ImMeme0) March 2, 2023

Joe Biden laughed about the deaths of this mother's two sons.

"What a horrible human being. How can he sit there and joke about it?!"

"What kind of a person does that?!" pic.twitter.com/29NdGRg39V

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) March 2, 2023

Others also took notice of his Biden's behavior, classifying it as disgusting and pathetic.

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What a disgusting and pathetic act by President Biden to laugh while discussing a mom who lost two sons to fentanyl.

He needs to apologize immediately. [1]<https://t.co/EI1JmDnktQ>

— Sen. Marsha Blackburn (@MarshaBlackburn) March 2, 2023

Recommended

Biden's FAA Nominee Can't Answer a Single Question About Aviation

Spencer Brown

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.@POTUS needs to apologize for this immediately. No person, let alone the president of the United States, laughs when speaking about a mother who lost two sons to fentanyl poisoning. What, President Biden, do you find amusing about this? [2]<https://t.co/ltRtOa8x4Y>

— Mike Lee (@BasedMikeLee) March 2, 2023

Biden & the left have ignored the border crisis for 10+ years & even fought the previous administration when they tried to secure it.

And what does Biden do when a woman loses her two kids to fentanyl?

He laughs.pic.twitter.com/DeoNxF7YKE

— Collin Rugg (@CollinRugg) March 2, 2023

Joe Biden on the fentanyl crisis:

- Laugh about a mom losing her two sons

President Trump on the fentanyl crisis:

- Designate cartels as terrorist orgs
- Death penalty for drug smugglers
- Cut off cartel access to the financial system

— Kimberly Guilfoyle (@kimguilfoyle) March 2, 2023

What an absolute scumbag!

☐☐☐

Joe Biden Laughs at Mother Who Lost Two Sons to Fentanyl Poisoning [3]<https://t.co/oSBTqZLpty>

— America First Shemp ☐☐☐☐☐ (@Anti __ Globalism) March 2, 2023

1. <https://t.co/EI1JmDnktQ>
2. <https://t.co/ltRtOa8x4Y>
3. <https://t.co/oSBTqZLpty>

2.3.3 Florida Introduces ‘Heartbeat Bill’ to Ban Abortions at 6 Weeks (2023-03-08 21:58)

Republicans in the Florida House and Senate filed a bill that would virtually ban all abortions across the state.

Filed by Fort Pierce Republican Sen. Erin Grall, SB 300 would ban doctors from knowingly performing or inducing a termination of pregnancy after the sixth week of gestation.

The “Heartbeat bill” would prohibit a woman from receiving an abortion right around the time the baby’s heartbeat can first be detected, with the exception of saving the life of the mother, fatal fetal abnormality in a pregnancy that has not progressed to the third trimester, and in the case of rape or incest before 15 weeks of pregnancy.

Florida already has a 15-week abortion ban that Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla) signed last year. However, he signaled that he would support a six-week limit on the procedure.

“We’re pro-life. I urge the legislature to work, produce good stuff, and we will sign,” DeSantis said last month, adding that he is “willing to sign great life legislation. That’s what I’ve always wanted to do.”

The 15-week ban made no exception for rape or incest, with DeSantis arguing that it was “very reasonable.”

The Florida Supreme Court is considering a legal challenge to the state’s 15-week ban, arguing that it violates the Florida Constitution’s privacy clause.

The Biden White House condemned the six-week proposal saying it would “jeopardize access not just in Florida but across the South where many states already have severe restrictions on abortion or outright bans. Florida law currently allows abortion up to the 15th week of pregnancy.”

“This ban would prevent not just the nearly 4 million Florida women of reproductive age from accessing abortion care after six weeks, but would also impact the nearly 15 million women of reproductive age who live in states across the South with abortion bans and would no longer be able to rely on Florida as an option to access care,” White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

2.3.4 Chris Rock Absolutely Obliterates Meghan Markle (2023-03-08 21:59)

Lady, this will all stop if you just go away. Meghan Markle and Prince Harry could have a comfortable life away from the spotlight, which they claim to want, but they also exhibit this penchant for reminding people they exist in the most insufferable way. You cannot have it both ways: you can’t claim to want privacy and virtual anonymity but then get huffy when people make fun of you. First, no one cares that your feelings are hurt; you are members of the British Royal Family. Second, emotional distress is part of the job description. And third, you’re some of the most privileged people on the planet. No one has time or patience to hear about how rich people are going through tough times. Prince Harry recently released his memoir, *Spare*, which earned him a \$20 million advance.

The couple fled the United Kingdom for California and mostly renounced their duties as royals, with allegations of vicious racism within the family and claims of being silenced. Of course, all of this was detailed in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, so not so sure the muzzled

allegations hold water. Recently, Ms. Markle was reportedly triggered by South Park's episode mocking the couple (via NY Post):

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The Duchess of Sussex apparently doesn't think "South Park" is funny.

Comedy Central aired an episode titled "The Worldwide Privacy Tour" mocking Meghan Markle, 41, and Prince Harry, 38, and their decision to move to the US to seek a private life — and Markle allegedly isn't too happy about it.

The duchess is reportedly "upset and overwhelmed" by the episode and "annoyed by 'South Park' but refuses to watch it all," a source told the Spectator.

A royal commentator even suggested that the episode could even bring on a lawsuit.

"Their legal team are casting an eye over the episode to see what is wrong, and what could be turned into something more sinister. This appears to be their course of action rather than laughing it off, enjoying the moment and showing the world that they get the joke," royal reporter Neil Sean told Fox News, adding that the creators of "South Park" have not heard anything yet.

Recommended

Tucker Carlson Releases Shocking January 6 Footage, Cheney and Kinzinger Hardest Hit
Matt Vespa

Cue the eyerolls, and while South Park's episode is hilarious, it's comedian Chris Rock that rips the couple to shreds in his latest Netflix special, 'Selective Outrage.' The racism claims Rock does away with in minutes, noting that the Royal Family are the "original racists;" they virtually invented it.

Chris Rock unloads on Meghan Markle and the Royal Family at his live Netflix show:

- Meghan Markle playing the victim
 - Royal family are the original racists
 - The colour of her and Harry's baby #ChrisRockLive pic.twitter.com/7rBqzplZY7
- Jamie Johnson (@JamieoJohnson) March 5, 2023

"That's like marrying into the Budweiser family and going 'they drink a lot.'"

The comedian later dispenses with the claim that Markle was bombarded with questions

about what color her biracial child would be, chalking it up to “in-law s**t” while adding that a lot of black families ask the same question. Rock wanted to know why Markle, now a royal, was complaining.

“Didn’t she hit the light-skin lottery?” he quipped.

Meghan and Harry are now punchlines, with no one really caring about them having a rough go of it as they try to maintain their ‘we’re non-public, public figures’ narrative who also earn millions of dollars.

In the words of Corrado ‘Junior’ Soprano, Meghan’s “like a woman with a Virginia ham under her arm, crying the blues ‘cause she has no bread.”

2.3.5 Tucker Carlson Said He Hates Trump In Private Text Messages: ‘I Can’t Handle Much More of This’ (2023-03-08 22:00)

A series of private text messages between Fox News host Tucker Carlson and former President Trump was released by Dominion Voting Systems as part of their defamation suit against the network.

According to a January 4, 2021 text message, Carlson revealed he has a strong dislike towards Trump.

“I hate him passionately,” a text sent by Carlson to a colleague read. “What he’s good at is destroying things. He’s the undisputed world champion of that. He could easily destroy us if we play it wrong.”

Two days before the January 6 Capitol Hill protests, Carlson wrote that he was very close to being done having to talk about the former president on-air.

“We are very, very close to being able to ignore Trump most nights. I truly can’t wait,” Carlson wrote.

The Fox News host has spent much of his time defending Trump against Democrats and the liberal media, such as his ties to Russian collusion, participating in protestors storming the Capitol, and other false allegations.

He has also praised Trump’s accomplishments, such as his efforts to secure the Southern border.

However, behind the scenes, Carlson was reportedly taking on another narrative.

“That’s the last four years. We’re all pretending we’ve got a lot to show for it because admitting what a disaster it’s been is too tough to digest. But come on. There isn’t really an upside to Trump,” Carlson wrote in a text message on a separate occasion.

Recommended

Carlson Responds to ‘Hysteria’ From Schumer, McConnell Over Jan. 6 Footage
Leah Barkoukis

Carlson’s texts were used in a series of exhibits from Dominion, which is suing the network as part of its \$1.6 billion lawsuit for defamation against Fox, arguing that they knowingly aired false claims about the company.

On the other end, Fox is pushing to dismiss the case on First Amendment grounds, saying they are “twisting” and “misattributing” quotes for their good.

On Tuesday, Dominion also alleged that owner and co-chairman of Fox Corp, Rupert Murdoch, reportedly said that hosts Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham “went too far” on post-election coverage.

In a statement following the release of the text messages, Fox News said, “thanks to today’s filings, Dominion has been caught red-handed again using more distortions and misinformation in their PR campaign to smear Fox News and trample on free speech and freedom of the press.

2.3.6 The January 6 Tapes: What They Really Tell Us (2023-03-08 22:04)

Tucker Carlson, on his show this week, has shown some footage from the 41,000 hours of security tapes recorded at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. The American people should be able to see as much of this footage as they wish to see. It’s our country, it’s our Capitol, it happened in our land, and we have a right to really know what happened that day.

The tapes Carlson showed told us nothing surprising, however. The Democrats (and RINOs) have been lying about the full issue all along, preaching only one narrative, that Donald Trump was totally at fault. Well, that’s a lie and we all knew that was a lie and have known it all along. There’s really nothing new there.

But the Democrats (and RINOs) went ballistic and, frankly, they have handled the thing very poorly. A case in point—and, ultimately, what the tapes really tell us.

1. Chuck Schumer. The Majority Leader of the Senate opined on March 7, the night after the first Carlson show, that Fox News should shut Tucker down and not let his show air the second night. But why, Mr. Schumer? Just because you think Carlson is lying doesn't mean everybody else does. And we have a right to decide that for ourselves. What are you afraid of on those videos? What are you trying to hide? If your narrative about January 6 is correct, the videos will show that, and you should want them aired all across the country by every network. If Schumer had had any sense, he would have said, "We appreciate very much Tucker Carlson airing these videos. In fact, we are going to make sure that every American who wants them can see every minute of footage. That way, Americans will know that Donald Trump WAS actually to blame for the worst insurrection in American history since the Civil War." By condemning the release of the videos, all Schumer, et al, are doing is causing people of intelligence to wonder, "What are they hiding? If they are right, why are they afraid of the tapes?" It is suspicious, to say the least. If you shine a light on a cockroach, it is going to scamper for darkness. Light is the last thing it wants. Truth has no fear from exposure, and the Democrats are in full-blown panic mode. Why?
2. Mitch McConnell. *Sigh* Mitch shows his colors again. The division in America is not between Republican and Democrat, but conservative and liberal, traditional America and "progressive" hedonism, Washington, D.C. and you. But Mitch's issue is a little more complex.

Mitch supports the Democrats any time a matter involving Donald Trump is involved. McConnell hates Trump, and, given some of the things Trump has said about him and his wife, it's not hard to understand why. Some cockroaches are crawling out of Mitch's cabinet, too, and he doesn't want those revealed. But it's mainly just his abhorrence of Donald Trump.

And I'm sorry, folks, but Mr. Trump is just not the man we need at the top of the Republican Party ticket next year. Most of the things he says he will do need to be done. But there's the rub. They NEED to be done, but they can't be done unless an American-loving patriot is elected to the Presidency. And Donald Trump is just not electable, not to the highest office in the land. Not any more.

Mr. Trump simply cannot control his mouth. He has alienated, not only all Democrats and probably most Independents, but too many Republicans as well. Trump, in 2016, was a fresh face on the scene, largely a

political unknown, with a pro-American populist message that resonated with millions of people, and (with the help of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton) won the presidency—even though he lost the popular vote. He wasn't overwhelmingly popular, even then. But in the last seven years, Mr. Trump's political instincts (if he ever really had any) have completely deserted him. He shows absolutely no ability to build the coalition necessary to win another national election. Rather, he is splintering his own party. Any possible opponent—especially a Republican—is often subject to crude, unnecessary abuse. Most people can disagree without being disagreeable. Mr. Trump can't do that, and fracturing the minority party would be disastrous next year.

Mitch McConnell irritates you and me to no end. But, the bottom line is, he IS Minority Leader in the Senate, and he carries great weight. As we saw last November, Republican candidates in state races can win or lose based on how enthusiastic (or otherwise) McConnell is towards their election. Yes, he is treacherously Washington Establishment. Yes, he needs to go the way of the dodo bird. But he's there. He has tremendous influence. And he hates Donald Trump. And, barring a virtual miracle, it will be almost impossible for Trump to overcome the odds, especially given the people, in his own party, he is infuriating and repelling. Mitch McConnell is just the most notable example of that.

Back to my main thesis in this article. Yes, the Democrats are obviously hiding something in the January 6 tapes. But we've always known that. January 6 will pass; indeed, it almost already had until McCarthy gave Carlson those tapes and brought it to the fore again. But it will pass. 2024 is on its way. And we need to win. And one thing this tape-release certainly demonstrated to us is that, among many, many powerful Washington Republicans (not just Mitch McConnell), they do not support Donald Trump.

Again I say, America NEEDS what Donald Trump is talking about. But we won't get that if our candidate isn't elected. And Trump won't win. Curse me till you die if you want to. But he won't win. Not even against Biden.

2.3.7 Dirty Mining, Slavery, and Child Labor Are at the Core of Elites' Green Energy Obsession (2023-03-10 17:46)

The much-touted green energy economy and the net zero goals it aims to obtain are built upon a dirty little secret: slavery and child labor.

A large percentage of the rare earth elements and critical minerals required for modern electronics, in general, and green energy technologies in particular, are produced and/or refined in countries where, if labor and environmental standards exist at all—and are enforced if they do—the standards are far short of what is required in developed countries.

The mining, refining, manufacturing, and transportation of the huge amounts of rare earth elements and critical minerals is a dirty business. Yet, they are vital to the magnets used in wind turbines, the cables, and stations used to transform the electricity produced by turbines and solar panels, and transmit it to its final destination, and the battery back-up needed to maintain electric power supply and reliability from those intermittent sources.

The International Energy Agency reports that offshore wind requires more scarce minerals, rare earth elements, and other critical metals per kilowatt hour of energy produced than any other source of electric power generation, renewable and non-renewable alike. Onshore wind and solar are the next most critical-mineral-intensive sources.

The vast majority of these critical minerals and elements are mined abroad, and almost all the refining of them is done by China alone.

A single on-shore wind turbine requires up to three metric tons of copper and magnets. Much larger offshore wind turbines require even more copper and magnets composed of rare earth elements. Thousands of pounds of ore must be mined to produce a single pound of rare earths, much less the combination of rare earths required for the magnets used in wind turbines. In addition, between 200,000 and 1.5 million pounds of earth must be mined and moved to produce the lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel, and other metals and trace elements necessary to produce a battery pack for a single electric vehicle. Thus, billions of tons will have to be mined and refined to produce the thousands of batteries that will compose the large-scale battery facilities providing backup power when wind and solar facilities are offline.

The conditions under which many of these minerals are produced are appalling. For example, cobalt is a necessary component of the green energy technologies President Biden is pushing on an expedited timeframe. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the largest producer of the cobalt in the world, by far. A large percentage of the cobalt is produced from small mines, where child labor is the norm, not the exception.

What's more, China is the largest single provider of most of the critical minerals and rare earths used around the globe, and is almost the only refiner of such products. This means minerals and rare earth elements mined elsewhere, often with Chinese funding, are shipped to China for processing into usable materials. Much of the mining and refining of materials in China is produced by forced or slave labor, often of persecuted religious minorities, like Falun Gong followers and Uighurs.

To be clear, those pushing Net Zero goals, like Democrats in Congress, green energy elites profiting from government support in the form of mandates and subsidies, and the

Biden administration, know child- and slave-labor are used to produce the minerals their green technologies depend upon. They claim to care about human rights, but their actions belie their words.

The U.S. State Department has a memorandum of understanding with the DRC to reduce the practice of child labor, however, that agreement doesn't carry the force of law. The United States wants the cobalt and other minerals produced in the DRC, and nearby regions where child labor is also a problem, in large quantities. Indeed, the Biden administration is leaning more on Africa to counter China's control over U.S. energy. As such, there is little doubt that growing government demand for wind turbines, solar panels, and battery packs in America and elsewhere in the West will increase pressure on cobalt mines to produce more. This will result in either more children being put to work, or existing child laborers being forced to work longer and harder under extremely dangerous conditions.

Concerning China, the Biden administration acknowledged the problem of slave labor, having signed the Uighur Forced Labor Prevention Act in 2021. Still, the reality of today's globalized supply chain, combined with insufficient intelligence on the ground to track forced-labor manufacturing, and less still the raw materials, makes it almost a certainty the massive green energy transition being pushed by the Biden administration will be built with minerals and parts produced using Chinese slave labor.

In economic terms, Western climate hysteria is imposing severe negative externalities on developing countries. Ethically, the West's climate obsession is immorally condemning present generations of impoverished peoples and nations to continued penury and early death. Make no mistake, this ruse exists to further enrich people in developed countries while they simultaneously avoid the cost and inconvenience of adapting to future climate conditions.

2.3.8 Here's How McCarthy Responded to an Invitation to Visit Ukraine (2023-03-10 18:03)

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has declined an invitation from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to visit the war-torn country.

The California Republican's comments come after Zelensky told CNN's Wolf Blitzer that McCarthy "has to come here to see how we work, what's happening here, what war caused us, which people are fighting now, who are fighting now. And then after that, make your assumptions."

While reiterating his support for the country, McCarthy was clear he doesn't support "blank checks."

"Let's be very clear about what I said: no blank checks, OK? So, from that perspective, I don't have to go to Ukraine to understand where there's a blank check or not," McCarthy told CNN's Manu Raju. "I will continue to get my briefings and others, but I don't have to go to Ukraine or Kyiv to see it. And my point has always been, I won't provide a blank check for anything."

2.3.9 Democrats Are Terrified Of An Educated And Informed Public (2023-03-15 22:30)

It's a strange time in the United States, where one political party is actively engaged in a series of actions to keep as many people as possible ignorant. Ignorant not of one particular event, study, or story, but of so many topics that reality itself is what they're ultimately attempting to obscure. It's evil, honestly, and it begs the question "What are Democrats so afraid of?" The only answer is simple: an informed public.

Communists in the old Soviet Union were terrified that their citizens would discover how well people in the free west were living. There were no bread lines, there were options – lots of options, for everything. This reality worried the communist leadership and would have confused their subjects, much like Bernie Sanders in 2015 lamented the idea that there were too many choices for deodorant and shoes. "You don't necessarily need a choice of 23 underarm spray deodorants or of 18 different pairs of sneakers when children are hungry in this country," he famously said.

The great thing about capitalism is you can have both choices and charity. Options matter, and an educated public, free from government tyranny, make choices about those options that is best for them rather than a faceless bureaucrat thousands of miles away imposing what they think is best for you.

The only way that second prospect gains any traction is ignorance. Ignorance of history and how that model has failed every time it's been tried, and ignorance of information where people are kept in the dark about reality and, therefore, draw manipulated and pre-selected conclusions and act accordingly. This is where Democrats live.

I've known Tucker Carlson since we met back in 2008, and I never noticed the horns. Granted, I've never touched his head, but next time I see him I will pat it down since I need to know if I'm hanging out with the Devil, as I've been told by Democrats, and, while it would be awkward to run my hands through his hair, it beats patting his ass to check for a tail.

What was his sin? Providing more information to the American public on something Democrats do not want us to have more information on: January 6th. He played more video, un-Democrat-approved video, of people in the Capitol building. He exposed truth that contradicted what Democrats have gotten so much political mileage out of, thereby exposing them as liars, both by commission and omission.

You'd think this would be a big story – Nancy Pelosi's January 6th committee manipulated the public, weaponizing Congress and its subpoena power to influence an election. The Democrats were Putin without invading Ukraine.

Nope. The media – the people who throw out their shoulders patting themselves on the back over their "speaking 'truth' to power" tramp-stamp tattoo – had no interest.

Rather than demanding answers from Democrats, who so obviously lied that even Stevie Wonder could see it, the press-credentialed class were incredulous toward Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy for releasing the footage. Journalists upset over the public gaining

access to more information, which used to be what they lived for. No questions for any member of the committee, Pelosi, or prosecutors who put a guy away for 4 years claiming he was some sort of violent ringleader, when new footage proved he was escorted by police alone and confronted exactly no one. Cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal is a figure worthy of sympathy and support – hell, he’d have a show on MSNBC right now if he were out of prison – but Jacob Chansley needs to spend every second of his sentence in prison because he dressed weird and upset Liz Cheney, Adam Schiff and Jamie Raskin.

To call the press the flying monkey army of the DNC is to insult fictional flying monkeys.

But it’s not just January 6th the left is circling the wagons to keep people ignorant of, it’s everything. Not a single Democrat asked any serious questions designed to gain information about the origins of COVID at a hearing this week. Those who bothered to show up did all they could to protect Tony Fauci’s reputation. Not a single Democrat expressed any concern for government bureaucrats pressuring social media companies to censor American citizens because they found what they were saying to be inconvenient or wrong. None gave a damn about the express violations of the First Amendment, not one.

It’s not that they do not care – indifference isn’t nefarious, and what Democrats are doing is evil – it’s that they benefit from the lies and ignorance. Most of the left-wing attacks on Tucker and conservative media aren’t on substance – Democrats don’t engage in substantive arguments, they simply dismiss with contempt and move on, preaching only their ignorant choir – they are designed to prevent people from consuming unapproved information. They couch it as “We watch conservative media so you don’t have to” but it’s really “We watch conservative media and lie about it in the hope you never do it yourself.”

Make up your own damn mind. I encourage you to flip on MSNBC every once in a while, if only to keep up with what the enemy is doing. Like visiting a zoo when you’re likely never going to run the risk of being trampled by an elephant, you should at least know what one looks like and is capable of. And when it comes to politics, Democrats are capable of anything. There is no bottom for them, no line they won’t cross. And the only way that works is with an ignorant public. Explains the schools in every left-wing stronghold in the country, doesn’t it?

2.3.10 Mike Pence Compares Trump’s Possible Indictment to the Political Prosecution of the Russia Hoax (2023-03-18 22:26)

Former Vice President Mike Pence reacted to the news that former President Trump may be indicted over claims he paid Stormy Daniels to keep quiet over their alleged affair.

While speaking on SiriusXM’s Breitbart News Saturday, Pence said he was “taken aback” by his former boss’s possible arrest, noting that the American people are more worried about issues caused by the Biden Administration, such as the ongoing border crisis and record-high inflation.

“Well, like many Americans, I’m just, I’m taken aback,” Pence said. “You have literally a Democratic party that’s literally dismantled the criminal justice system in that city, undercut the NYPD, and this is what the Manhattan DA says is their top priority? It reeks of the kind of political prosecution that we endured back in the days of the Russia hoax and the whole

impeachment over a phone call.”

As New York City crime runs rampant, progressive leftists care more about punishing Trump than their residents’ safety.

Pence continued to compare the news about Trump to the Russian hoax and the impeachment nonsense to his potential arrest, all to rid the U.S. of Trump since they know he can expose their radical agenda.

“It reeks of the kind of political prosecution that we endured back in the days of the Russia hoax and the whole impeachment over a phone call. And one thing I know is that former President Trump can take care of himself,” Pence added.

The former Vice President, who, in the past, has thrown Trump under the bus, supported Trump by expressing his anger with the woke justice system as President Joe Biden continues to get away with shady business deals connected to his family’s relationship with Communist China.

Pence acknowledged that there is one standard for Republicans, especially those associated with Trump.

“But the fact that the media has almost no interest whatsoever in the truth about Hunter Biden’s ties and the investments being made into the Biden family and the connections in China and elsewhere,” Pence added. “The American people see through it, and I think — look, no one is above the law, but I am deeply concerned about the politicization we’ve seen in the Justice Department. And frankly, the criminalization of politics in America, it’s doing absolutely nothing to help relieve the struggles that the American people are facing every single day.”

2.3.11 ‘That’s Obviously the Play Here’: Matt Walsh Has an Interesting Theory on Why Trump Might Get Arrested (2023-03-18 22:28)

The possibility of the Manhattan Criminal Court indicting former President Donald Trump on charges related to hush money payments to Stormy Daniels has led to a variety of theories around the inevitable political fallout to come.

Though the charges reportedly to be brought against Trump initially don’t appear to be anything that would land him in jail for even a day, the possibility of handcuffs and a perp walk for the former president has Democrats salivating and conservatives, even Trump critics, aghast that partisan politics have descended so low. This is the stuff of banana republics and Third World dictatorships, not what was not so long ago the beacon of the free world.

Arresting the leader of the opposition party is the signature move of socialist and Third World despotic regimes. Moreover, it’s always done in the name of “fighting corruption” and “rule of law” #TrumpIndictment— Dinesh D’Souza (@DineshDSouza) March 18, 2023

As to the motivations, assuming there are any beyond blind hatred for the former president, former Trump advisor and attorney Jenna Ellis suggested that the goal could be to “keep him from being able to raise enough money for a serious campaign.”

Here's what you need to know about the possible Trump indictment:

The goal isn't the political fallout. They know he isn't going to exit the race, nor is he constitutionally required to. The goal to keep him from being able to raise enough money for a serious campaign. It's the... <https://t.co/rWqtdMAVDB>— Jenna Ellis 🇺🇸 (@JennaEllisEsq) March 17, 2023

Some, including Dilbert creator Scott Adams and Trump defense lawyer Joe Tacopina, believe the move could propel him back to the presidency:

"I believe this will catapult him into the White House" - Trump Defense Lawyer Joe Tacopina on the Manhattan DA's case. pic.twitter.com/Tnycj0yweH— The Beat with Ari Melber 🇺🇸 (@TheBeatWithAri) March 15, 2023

If they handcuff Trump, he is your next president. <https://t.co/Mqk0hDcRkB>— Scott Adams (@ScottAdamsSays) March 18, 2023

But with a drained war chest and potential donors shying away, it seems unclear how the former president could win what would already be an extremely tough general election against any Democrat.

Enter the Daily Wire's Matt Walsh, who suggested Saturday that the motivation could be to make just enough of a martyr out of Trump to ensure he wins the GOP nomination - even against a potential strong challenger like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis - but ultimately runs out of steam and loses the general election.

"They want Trump to be the Republican nominee," Walsh wrote Saturday morning. "That's obviously the play here. There is no other conceivable reason to arrest and perp walk him on a bullshit misdemeanor charge. I might be overestimating the tactical intelligence of the idiot power-hungry hacks behind this. But if there is any political strategy then that has to be it."

They want Trump to be the Republican nominee. That's obviously the play here. There is no other conceivable reason to arrest and perp walk him on a bullshit misdemeanor charge.— Matt Walsh (@MattWalshBlog) March 18, 2023

I think Walsh is on to something. If Democrats want Trump to be the nominee - and if you watch two seconds of MSNBC punditry you'll know all arrows point to yes on that score - it's because they know he can be easily beaten in the general. They can't wait to ignite their base and replay January 6th footage from the time Trump is nominated until the day Biden or whoever replaces him wins in an Electoral College landslide. Their worst nightmare, on the other hand, is someone with Trump's policies but none of his baggage, like DeSantis.

Finally, I'll leave you with BlazeTV host Steve Deace raising another potential motivation that Trump's most earnest supporters should certainly watch out for - a replay of January 6th.

Just what they want. They are gonna goad us into another January 6 narrative but on a bigger scale. Once we assemble to protest, the feds will already be in place to stoke the flames. Having fun yet? We need to play chess here. Not react to this injustice emotionally. <https://t.co/Eab3F8Ci56>— Steve Deace (@SteveDeaceShow) March 18, 2023

If you're dumb enough to walk right into a fed trap with a "protest" on behalf of the banana republic they want to do to Trump, please at least be smart enough to secure legal counsel

beforehand. And make sure his name isn't Ray Epps.— Steve Deace (@SteveDeaceShow)
March 18, 2023

2.3.12 Ex-Trump Lawyer Accuses Trump of Creating 'Violent Clash' Ahead of Possible Indictment (2023-03-18 22:30)

The liberal media is having a heart attack over former President Trump's statement following the news he will possibly be indicted over allegations he had an affair with Stormy Daniels during the 2016 presidential election.

Many news outlets are comparing Trump's message to his January 6 Capitol Hill announcement, where he urged his supporters to "protest" on his behalf.

On Saturday, Trump took to his Truth Social account to tell his supporters to "protest" to "take our nation back," calling Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's effort "corrupt" and "politically motivated."

Trump's ex-attorney, Michael Cohen, accused the former president of advocating for violence in his honor.

"Donald would have no reason to put out the statement unless he has been contacted by the and advised accordingly," Cohen claimed. "Donald's post is eerily similar to his battle cry before the January 6th insurrection, including calling for protest. By doing so, Donald hopes to rile his base, witness another violent clash on his behalf, and profit from it by soliciting contributions."

Leftist reporters also accuse Trump of inciting civil unrest before his possible indictment on Tuesday.

Politico Senior legal affairs reporter Kyle Cheney said that Trump's message came straight from his "January 6 playbook."

"Lots of similarities to 1/6 calls by Trump, including giving backers a target day to gather. But unlike two years ago, there's no natural place to convene, or even a certainty that Tuesday is the correct day," Cheney tweeted.

NEW: Predicting imminent charges against him in Manhattan, Trump called on supporters Saturday to "take our nation back," an ominous exhortation reminiscent of his Jan. 6 calls.

w/ @joshgerstein @eorden <https://t.co/W5dfWoQlxl>
— Kyle Cheney (@kyledcheney) March 18, 2023

MSNBC contributor David Corn attacked Trump for "threatening the nation."

"And in recent posts, he has excused or dismissed the violence of January 6. Yet, he is
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an authoritarian willing to (again) use violence for his ends. That is a threat to the nation,” he wrote on Twitter.

2.3.13 Michigan Is Headed Back to Rust Belt Poverty (2023-03-21 22:14)

Since the early days of Henry Ford, Michigan was the proud symbol of America’s industrial might.

But then, starting in the 1970s, things went south — in part because of the might of the unions that ran the state’s political machine. That’s when Michigan transitioned into the sad symbol of closed factories: the American “Rust Belt.” Flint, Michigan, became a ghost town.

From the 1970s to the early 2000s, Detroit lost nearly half its population. Whole neighborhoods were bulldozed, and homes were selling for less than \$10,000 as poor and minority residents fled the area’s crime, lousy schools, high unemployment and political corruption.

If you traveled to Florida or Arizona, you saw lots of Michigan license plates.

But then, Michigan began to reform itself with tax cuts and leaner and cleaner government. One big reform was Michigan became a “right to work” state. The state went through an amazing economic renaissance. According to the American Legislative Exchange Council’s “Rich States, Poor States” report (which I co-wrote), few states rose on economic competitiveness faster than the home of the Wolverines. Prosperity returned.

Now the shine is off the engine. The Democrats took back control of the politics in the state, and the first thing they did was repeal “right to work” — a big wet kiss to the union bosses for all those campaign contributions.

“Right to work” is the law of the land in 26 states. These laws do not prohibit unions. There are many unions in these states. “Right to work” simply means that workers cannot be compelled to join a union.

Democrats are falsely advertising this as a restoration of workers’ rights. That’s a bald-faced lie. Now, to keep your job in Michigan, you must join the union, and you must pay dues to the union bosses. The United Auto Workers union has been plagued with corruption, including massive pay packages to the union leaders.

This bill will not only take away the right to choose from Michigan workers, but it will also do great damage to the state’s economy. States that have “right to work” laws create jobs at almost twice the pace of states with forced union policies.

Many businesses won’t even consider locating a new factory or blue-collar operation in a forced union state. The auto jobs in America will now accelerate their move to the Southern states, which happen to be “right to work.”

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D-MI), a stooge of the unions, will sign the bill into law. And Michigan is about to see a return to the Rust Belt era.

Here is what's really telling. The Communist Party of America put out a press release celebrating the demise of "right to work" in Michigan. They note correctly that Michigan is now the first state in more than half a century to turn back the clock and force union chains on workers. Most states have been moving in the opposite direction.

What is sadly ironic about this endorsement is that throughout the 20th century, the unions in America were staunchly anti-communist. It was Lech Walesa, the Polish union organizer, who stood up to the evil communist government that tried to outlaw unions. He and President Ronald Reagan and the AFL-CIO helped defeat the evil empire.

Now the communists in America cheer on the unions as they sow the seeds of their own demise — as well as the demise of a once-mighty state.

2.3.14 Wisconsin Is the Most Important Race in the Country in 2023 (2023-03-21 22:15)

Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus tweeted seemingly out of nowhere last week about the Wisconsin State Supreme Court race coming up next month. In her breezy post, she listed fair maps, abortion rights and control of Congress as the key reasons to get involved. For added measure, she embedded a cheerful video of herself in the tweet encouraging people to get involved, with the promise that she would "lift them up" on social media if they did so.

She followed that by retweeting Wisconsin Democratic Party Chairman Ben Wikler's dire warning about the race:

"RED ALERT: A MAGA PAC just reserved \$3.2 million in TV ads for the April 4 Wisconsin Supreme Court race. For the next two weeks, GOP groups are outspending Dem groups on TV. This could spell disaster for 2024. Read on, retweet, and help fight back."

So why is Hollywood interested in this? Simply put, the Democratic Party is the party of Hollywood, and Democrats know this is the biggest race of 2023. It matters more than anything else in the same way the race for control of the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court mattered in 2015. Democrats understood the stakes and invested heavily, whereas Republicans fell asleep at the wheel.

In November 2015, Pennsylvania voters — with a lot of Republicans sitting at home, not paying attention, and a lot of Democrats showing up — chose three judges who ensured that Democrats would have the upper hand in the state once again. Kevin Dougherty, Christine Donohue and David Wecht, all Democrats, were elected on the same day.

It was a win that changed everything in Pennsylvania. The newly activist court would go on to rip up and redraw the congressional districts to favor Democrats, years after they'd been drawn and weeks before petitions were due. They would also change voting rules during the pandemic as to how mail-in votes were accepted — a decision that made many conservative voters believe the system was rigged to favor Democrats in 2020.

That decision also cost Republicans their majority in the state House when a committee carved numerous state House districts to blatantly favor Democrats.

Ask Republicans now how they feel about not investing in Pennsylvania in 2015, and they will candidly admit they blew it. That decision not to invest outside money for ads and staffers caused an activist Democrat-controlled court to run amok.

So, are Republicans about to blow it again now?

Julia Louis-Dreyfus's tweet said it all — the Wisconsin Supreme Court race's importance has risen to the level that Democrats have their entire ecosystem paying attention to it. The question is, will the Republican ecosystem pay attention or shrug it off in the same way that they did with Pennsylvania in 2015?

To date, Democrats have spent and reserved a total of \$7.6 million in advertising; Republicans have spent and reserved a total of \$5 million. Reports from earlier this year show the Wisconsin Democratic Party had raised \$3.5 million by Feb. 6, compared to the Republican Party's mere \$56,061. Disclosures also show that Wisconsin Democrats have been raising big dollars from New York and California, both for last year's Senate and gubernatorial races and for this high-stakes race.

Last month Wisconsin held its primary election for the Supreme Court race that can only be seen as a victory for state progressives — they not only earned over 50 % of the vote in the non-partisan primary, but the conservative they are now going to face next month also lost significantly in a 2020 court election.

In just over two weeks, the two candidates — progressive Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Janet Protasiewicz and Daniel Kelly, a conservative former State Supreme Court justice — will face off in a race that will, on the face of it, be about abortion, but in reality is a race to tip the closest state in the country toward the Democrats.

How? The last time the Supreme Court dealt with redistricting, it punted back to state supreme courts. This is why North Carolina is now redrawing its map after Republicans took control of its Supreme Court. Wisconsin will redraw its map, too, if Democrats do the same.

As of today, Republicans in Washington, D.C., hold a four-seat majority in the U.S. House. Democrats could easily add two or more seats to their total just by remapping Wisconsin.

Republicans have a lot to make up for in three short weeks in terms of fundraising and campaigning. The question is not whether they can but whether they will bother. They missed the biggest race in 2015 because it wasn't sexy enough, and it cost them down the road.

As the saying goes, elections have consequences. Democrats get that with this race. Time will tell whether Republicans do.

2.3.15 Republicans Call DeSantis's Attacks Against Trump 'Childish' and 'Cute' (2023-03-26 18:31)

Republicans are criticizing Gov. Ron DeSantis's (R-Fla) recent attacks on former President Trump, saying his comments are too late.

During an interview with Piers Morgan earlier this week, DeSantis fired shots back at Trump for the first time as the country awaits the former president's potential indictment.

A GOP operative told the Hill that the Florida governor's backhanded comments toward Trump might be too late and weak.

"What's happening this week is the party thinks it's wildly unfair and the way President Trump is being treated is a total joke, and they're rallying around him — and that's from a lot of people who love him, people who hate him who think he's being treated unfairly," the Republican operative said.

He claimed voters view DeSantis's remarks as childish and too cute, adding he doesn't think it will age well with the governor.

"These attacks are being perceived as cheap shots. Kicking someone while they're down. So I don't think they've helped [DeSantis]. If anything, they've helped Trump," the operative continued.

The Republican operative also said that it would have been fine if DeSantis had made his comments the same day Trump speculated his potential arrest. However, waiting days to say something made it seem like a "calculated line."

"When the two guys who can claim the moral high ground in their own response don't criticize the moral failings, that means you're probably

wrong as well,” the GOP operative said.

During the interview with Morgan, DeSantis questioned Trump’s leadership style, criticizing him for hiring people who did not align with his policy positions, ultimately leading to private information leaking to the press.

DeSantis also claimed that character is most important when it comes to someone leading the U.S., giving an example using George Washington because he “always put the republic over his own personal interest.”

However, several Republicans disagree with this DeSantis. Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) argued that winning should be the top priority when running for president rather than what type of person you are.

“You look at college football, basketball, [or] anything in this country — winning matters first,” Tuberville told reporters. “Unfortunately, sometimes, character should be more involved. But people look for success; they look for people to get things done. That’s the way it is.”

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) also challenged DeSantis’s recent attacks on Trump, calling it “gutsy.”

“He’s stepping into a big arena. It’s a big arena. He’s probably calculating that if he’s going to be in that arena, you can’t just take all the blows. You have to land a couple yourself,” Cramer said, according to the Hill.

However, Cramer acknowledged that DeSantis does have what it takes to be the next president.

2.3.16 Xi and Vlad, a Wake-Up Call for America and the West (2023-03-26 18:32)

The recent visit of the Communist Chinese leader Xi Jinping to Moscow for meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin was partly intended to be a big poke in the eye to America, and a message to the West in general that China is on the move and fully intends to replace the United States as the world's only superpower. A quote that is often attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte might seem appropriate at this point in time, "Let China Sleep, for when she wakes, she will shake the world." China is definitely awake.

The Moscow meetings were full of pomp and ceremony, but truthfully, Russian President Vladimir Putin is really just along for the ride, a junior partner and temporary ally of China during this period of transition as a result of China asserting itself internationally. China really doesn't need Russia, but Russia and Vladimir Putin definitely needs China.

Vladimir Putin's ill-conceived invasion of Ukraine, with the Ukrainians proving to be a tenacious enemy exacting huge costs in Russian lives and materiel, has made Putin's grip on power in Russia somewhat tenuous. Xi Jinping knows this. Putin needs China's support to keep him from possibly having an unanticipated 'accident' or 'health emergency,' as has sometimes been the case when a Russian leader falls out of favor with the ruling elite in the Kremlin.

Xi Jinping has provided that support, for the moment. But Xi Jinping has no intention of allowing Putin to drag China down with Russia should the Ukrainian invasion continue to go badly for Putin. China will cut Putin loose in a heartbeat if this new relationship threatens China's long term goals in any way. China has embarked on what can only be

described as something akin to a 'marriage of convenience' with Russia, and will only maintain that relationship as long as it benefits China's agenda.

The diplomatic full court press that China's been pursuing in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and in our own hemisphere is a direct result of the weakness of the Biden Administration. Joe Biden simply isn't physically or mentally capable of meeting the rigors of the job as president. He can barely make it to Delaware every weekend to rest and recover from his demanding 20-hour work week.

And he has surrounded himself with many Obama administration retreads who were scoffed at and ridiculed by our adversaries during Obama's eight years in office. Our friends and enemies in the world have never had any professional respect for the Obamunists, either during Barack Obama's administration, or now again under Joe Biden.

Whoever is president following Joe Biden's disastrous four years in office will have a huge, deep hole to dig America out of. Whether it's Trump, DeSantis, or anyone else, the failures of the Biden administration will resonate long after Joe Biden leaves office.

The damage that's been done may be insurmountable. At the very least it will certainly take more than one presidential term to fix what Biden and his Obamunists have caused to our international position, and to our relations with friend and foe alike.

Not to mention the domestic problems that will also need to be addressed. Both will have to be worked on at the same time, a monumental task requiring someone with the stamina to meet those challenges head-on. Obviously Joe Biden hasn't been up to the job from the very start.

Xi and Vlad, along with the Ayatollah and Kim Jung Un, have created a

new “Axis of Evil,” and they have every intention of trying to exploit this renewed American weakness every chance they get.

America better wake up, because China certainly has, and Xi intends to make the world tremble.

2.3.17 AOC Joins TikTok to Voice Her Unwanted Opinion On the App’s Potential Ban (2023-03-26 18:34)

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is being heavily criticized after joining the Chinese-owned app TikTok so that she can argue against its potential ban in the U.S.

“Now, this week, the CEO of TikTok came and testified before Congress as there are growing rumblings and discussion over a nationwide ban on the app. Do I believe TikTok should be banned? No,” the squad member said. “The United States has never before banned a social media company from existence, from operating in our borders, and this app has over 150 million Americans on it.”

Her defensiveness drew concerns since many reports revealed the Chinese government may be stealing American data and that the app could be used to promote pro-Beijing propaganda and misinformation.

An unnamed senior member of New York’s congressional delegation reportedly told the New York Post that “AOC clearly stands for ‘Ambassador of China.’”

AOC insisted that banning TikTok “doesn’t really address the core of the issues,” despite the Department of Justice investigating allegations the app spied on several American journalists.

“Major social media companies are allowed to collect troves of deeply personal data about you that you don’t know about without any really significant regulation whatsoever,” she continued. “The United States is one of the

only developed nations in the world that has no significant data or privacy protection laws on the book."

AOC downplayed the risks saying since Congress has not received a classified briefing on the matter, there must be nothing to worry about.

"And usually when the United States is proposing a very major move that has something to do with significant risk to national security, one of the first things that happens is that Congress receives a classified briefing," she said. "And I can tell you that Congress has not received a classified briefing around the allegations of national security risks why would we be proposing a ban regarding such a significant issue without being clued in on this at all? It just doesn't feel right to me."

2.3.18 DeSantis and Trump Both Dismiss the Idea of Being Each Other's 2024 Running Mates (2023-03-26 18:36)

Former President Trump and Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla) doubted being each other's 2024 running mates.

On separate occasions this week, the two Republicans addressed the possibility that they would run together for GOP nomination. However, both of them shot down the idea.

DeSantis said he sees himself as "more of an executive guy," adding that he gets things done rather than leaving Americans with broken promises.

"I think I'm probably more of an executive guy," the governor told Newsmax. "I think that you want to be able to do things. That's part of the reason I got into this job because we have action. We can make things happen, and I think that's probably what I am best suited for."

He called the idea of having Trump as a running mate an "interesting speculation."

"The whole party, regardless of any personalities or individuals, you have got to be looking at 2024 and saying, if the Biden regime continues, and they're able to pick up 10-15 seats in the House and a Senate seat or two, this country is going to be in really, really bad shape," DeSantis continued.

Meanwhile, Trump said it is "very unlikely" he would recruit the Florida governor as his sidekick in 2024.

"No, I think that would be a very unlikely alliance," Trump told Newsmax. "We have a lot of great people in the Republican Party. I've never thought of it, but, you know, some people every once in a while mention it, but that's about it."

Trump once again took credit for DeSantis's fame, claiming he was the one who got the governor elected.

"He was failing badly in the polls. He was out of politics. He was going to be out of politics, and I endorsed him," Trump said. "And he went from a very small number to a very high number. I had rallied for Ron, and we got him in. Then a couple of years later, they said, 'Would you run against the president for president?' He said, 'I have no comment.' I said, 'That's not supposed to happen.'"

Despite DeSantis not yet announced an official run for the White House, he is widely seen as the top contender to compete against Trump in the next presidential election.

When asked about a potential bid, DeSantis said, "we'll see what happens" after Florida's state legislative session.

Trump has taken copious shots at DeSantis, such as calling him "Ron DeSanctimonious." However, the governor believes his landslide victory win in Florida is the primary thing that has changed the former president's tune. In addition, Trump, who previously endorsed DeSantis in 2018, said earlier this month that he "probably" regrets endorsing his run for governor.

2.3.19 The Latest Target of the Woke Left Will Make You Laugh at Their Stupidity (2023-03-26 18:37)

2.3.20 Job trail in February (2023-03-29 21:04)

I completed the Track Program in Mankato for two months. This was after employment in Fun.com in October 2020. I was at Walgreens and Minnesota State University. At Walgreens, I was stocking, mopping floor, and replacing shopping cart wheels. This Walgreen's manager, was a Eagle scout. I could talk about Lutheranism, because there was an exception with the Kiwi Holiday Lights show in Sibley Park in Mankato annually. It was just frond upon even tough during Easter decorations. At Minnesota State University, I was cleaning tables and chopping melons, refilling shotguns. They gave me a knife. The students would have a lot of lef over food and liquid on the table, because they're messy. At least I could talk to the manager about Xbox Series X, and first person shooters. The manger was playing a Farmville/ Simcity game. I told this manager, Nick, about the times I played Goldeneye, Perfect Dark, Doom, Quake III Arena, Unreal Tournament, and Half-Life over 56k modems and some modern ones like call of duty modern warefare, Half-life 2, Unreal Tournament 3, Crysis, and Resistance Fall of Man.

I graduated the Track program and had Pizza and took photos in the Wow zone. I drove to work while the others took the van. The Mankato State University manager said I did a good job. Now they're helping me to deep dive for employment.

I also took class with 5 people for two hours a day, 5 days a week, for 2 months. I ate lunch with these classmates. They're into everything like progressive house like Madonna - Ray of Light album, rock music, anime, Family Guy, Spongebob Squarepants, Tiktok, Snapchat. The women thought they were actresses.

2.4 April

2.4.1 Our Message To The Left: Here I Stand (2023-04-01 21:10)

Totalitarians loathe debate. They sometimes discuss a particular issue, but too often, the conversation devolves into fits of emotion, false premises, and outright lies. Most of us know people like this, and there are several reasons why calm, forensic debate with them is nearly impossible.

The rookies of the American Left usually adhere pretty well to the talking points of whatever the issue is. Unfortunately for them, the messaging is a mile wide and an inch thick. They've been told what to believe and what to say, but they're ill-instructed on the 'why' of their beliefs. So, flustered by their intellectual impotence, they often resort to name-calling and appeals to "educate yourself!"

More experienced Leftists will conflate an issue with things that have nothing to do with

the topic. Another tactic involves inventing a false premise to create a distraction and move the conversation away from the matter at hand.

Militant Leftists take a hard-line approach. They're adept at tearing down whatever institutions underpin the subject matter. Sometimes, this is done rhetorically, but militants are not shy about engaging in violence, up to and including mass murder.

At the core of this hatred of debate, and the questions that shape it, is the Left's innate knowledge, however slight, that their positions are entirely indefensible. There is no truth and little logic to support any policy they want to inflict on Americans. When their inability to defend their ideas occurs to them, things get ugly and civil debate ends.

This totalitarian behavior is not new. But, unfortunately, much of what passes for discourse today reprises a debate style that emerged at the dawn of the most consequential event since the Edict of Milan; the Protestant Reformation.

The debate began on October 31, 1517, when a Roman Catholic monk named Martin Luther presented his 95 Theses to the Archbishop of Mainz. They were subsequently nailed to the University of Wittenberg church door, not in the act of defiance but because the church door served as a bulletin board for students and Luther's fellow professors.

Luther made 95 one-sentence assertions detailing his views on the state of Christianity and wrote in his preface that he "intends to defend the following statements and to dispute on them in that place." It was an invitation to debate his fellow academics about matters Luther saw as crucial to the faith.

But inviting a forensic discussion of these 95 issues enraged the ruling theocracy for the same reason American Leftists despise debate today. The medieval power structure knew their positions were indefensible and could not withstand scrutiny, so argument needed to be crushed.

The biggest threat to the theocracy involved money, and the payment of indulgences to the church in Rome. Initially, the corporate church promoted German friar Johann Tetzel to debate Luther. Tetzel was chosen for this task because he sold a lot of indulgences in Germany.

Tetzel was an outstanding salesman but was woefully out of his depth in debate. His talking points were a mile wide and an inch thick, and he utterly failed, ending his career with a demotion. But rather than continue the debate, they simply changed the subject and ramped up the slander. Finally, about a year after posting his 95 Theses, Luther was ordered to appear in Augsburg, Germany, to defend himself against accusations of heresy.

Still unable to refute Luther, the ruling class sought to cancel him via ex-communication in 1521. He was then allowed to recant before the Diet of Worms, the theocracy's legislative assembly. But Luther's position was founded on truth, and the other side was founded on lies, so he held his ground.

After failing to cancel or intimidate Luther, the government decided he needed killing. So Emperor Charles V declared Luther an outlaw, meaning he could be killed on sight. Thankfully, Luther had a political ally in Frederick the Wise of Saxony, who orchestrated the fake kidnapping of Luther and provided a haven at his castle in Wartburg, Germany.

Civic debate in America today parallels the theocratic response to Luther, whose sin was seeking discussion and asking questions. Like medieval theocrats, the modern Left is keenly aware they cannot prevail in the civil debate. Hence, they slander, intimidate and seek to wreck whatever and whomever they must to prevent debate.

But Luther had none of it and confidently told the Diet of Worms, “Acting against one’s conscience is neither safe nor sound. So here I stand; I can do no other.” In seeking debate, Luther propelled the Reformation forward and articulated the freedoms of religion, speech, press, peaceable assembly and redress of grievances enshrined in the First Amendment of our Constitution.

Whether the American Left will succeed in using these regressive tactics today depends on us. So it’s time to say, ‘Here I stand.’

2.4.2 All the ‘Trans Women’ Who Were Celebrated During Women’s History Month (2023-04-01 21:13)

Every year, March is recognized as “Women’s History Month.” This year’s Women’s History Month was one for the books. Townhall has covered time and time again how biological males who identify as transgender women have won titles and competitions against biological women. But, throughout this year’s Women’s History Month, specifically, several transgender women were recognized for accomplishments that could have gone to deserving biological women, from winning beauty pageant titles to receiving recognition from the current presidential administration.

Alba Rueda

Earlier this month, First Lady Jill Biden commemorated Women’s History Month by honoring Alba Rueda, a transgender person who serves as Argentina’s current Special Envoy for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, and was the first Argentine Undersecretary for Diversity Policies in the newly created Ministry of Women, Gender, and Diversity, according to a press release from the State Department.

On International Women’s Day, Rueda was honored at the White House’s Women of Courage awards, which recognized “a group of 11 extraordinary women from around the world who are working to build a brighter future for all.” Reportedly, United States Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks mispronounced Rueda’s name in her introductory remarks, according to the New York Post.

Rueda “is a transgender woman who was kicked out of classrooms, barred from sitting for exams, refused job opportunities, subjected to violence and rejected by her family,” Hicks reportedly said during her remarks. “But in the face of these challenges, she worked to end violence and discrimination against the LGBTQI+ community.”

Predictably, the first lady received backlash from Republicans for honoring Rueda on International Women's Day

"It's International Women's Day - a good time to remember that the Democrats can't even tell you what a woman is," GOP Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders wrote.

It's International Women's Day - a good time to remember that Democrats can't even tell you what a woman is. <https://t.co/BPJ1fHhI5u>

— Sarah Huckabee Sanders (@SarahHuckabee) March 8, 2023

"Nice of FLOTUS to encourage the diminishment of women on 'international women's day'. Erasing women is abusive," conservative radio host Dana Loesch said on Twitter.

Nice of FLOTUS to encourage the diminishment of women on "international women's day."

Erasing women is abusive. <https://t.co/SYNfHSE78s>

— Dana Loesch (@DLoesch) March 8, 2023

Lia Thomas

Will "Lia" Thomas is a biological male who identifies as transgender and competed on the women's swim team at the University of Pennsylvania last year. As Townhall covered, Thomas robbed biological women of opportunities and won races competing against women. At the NCAA championships, Thomas took home a NCAA Division I Title. And, when Thomas tied against a female athlete, Riley Gaines, he was permitted to take the trophy home, while Gaines left empty-handed.

This month, ESPN celebrated Thomas by including him as part of a Women's History Month video.

"In 2022, swimmer Lia Thomas became the first transgender athlete to win an NCAA Division 1 Championship by winning the 500 freestyle," the narrator boasted in the video.

ESPN celebrated Women's History Month by promoting a special about transgender swimmer Lia Thomas.....a biological male who destroyed real women in the pool. pic.twitter.com/gVL0rz2NN

— David Hookstead (@dhookstead) March 26, 2023

"Being trans is not a choice," Thomas claimed in the video. "I didn't have any other choice...I transitioned to be happy."

"How can any woman work at ESPN after this?" Outkick editor David Hookstead wrote on Twitter. "The network is just openly mocking them at this point."

In response to the video, Gaines called Thomas "arrogant" and pointed out that he stole a national title from a deserving female athlete. She then urged the women working at ESPN to leave the outlet.

Lia Thomas is not a brave, courageous woman who EARNED a national title. He is an arrogant, cheat who STOLE a national title from a hardworking, deserving woman. The @ncaa is responsible.

If I was a woman working at ESPN, I would walk out. You're spineless @espn #boycottESPN <https://t.co/DF3n5RWsmV>

— Riley Gaines (@Riley_Gaines_) March 26, 2023

In an interview with Fox Business, Gaines said that she never received a response from ESPN about her complaints about the video.

"People are becoming more bold, people are starting to open their eyes to what this gender ideology propaganda being pushed by the left, being pushed by the media, being pushed within education systems, [is]." Gaines said in the interview. "They're opening their eyes to how harmful this is, specifically, of course, to women and to children."

Rep. Leigh Finke

Each year, to commemorate Women's History Month, USA Today releases a list of trail-blazing women from each of the 50 states as its "Women of the Year." This year, the outlet honored a biological male Democratic lawmaker who identifies as a transgender woman.

Democratic state Rep. Leigh Finke is the first "openly transgender" person to be elected and serve in Minnesota's state legislature.

"It's a dramatic understatement to say that I am beyond honored to see my name among this list of honorees," Finke wrote of the honor on Twitter.

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It's a dramatic understatement to say that I am beyond honored to see my name among this list of honorees. <https://t.co/WDIPslwsdH>

— Leigh Finke (@leighfinke) March 19, 2023

In USA Today's profile of Finke, the outlet noted that he transitioned to live as a woman in 2017 and "has been an activist for transgender and LGBTQ+ rights, as well as Black Lives Matter, almost her whole life."

As Townhall covered, in the interview, Finke said that there are currently 11 LGBTQ people who were elected to the Minnesota state legislature. Finke claimed that "trans liberation is upward flowing" and that "everyone will benefit from the work that we're trying to do for our young people."

This isn't the first time USA Today honored a male as part of its Women's History Month list. Last year, Townhall covered how USA Today honored Dr. Rachel Levine, the U.S. assistant secretary for health, on the same list. Levine, a four-star admiral, was born a biological male, Richard Levine, and transitioned to live as a female. Previously, Levine was secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. This month, Townhall reported how Levine promised to

“normalize” life-altering, irreversible gender mutilation surgeries for minors.

Fae Johnstone

Candy company Hershey’s faced backlash this month after it unveiled female-themed chocolate bars promoted by a biological male who identifies as a woman in honor of Women’s History Month, which Townhall reported.

The transgender person, Fae Johnstone, a self-described “2 LGBTQIA+ advocate,” appeared in a video ad supporting the company’s campaign.

“My name is Fae Johnstone, I’m the executive director of Wisdom2Action. We can create a world where everyone is able to live in public space as their honest and authentic selves,” Johnstone said in the ad.

The ad concluded with a message stating, “See the women changing how we see the future” and encourage users to look up Hershey’s Canada on social media.

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Hersheys is using a trans woman to promote their "HerShe" campaign in honor of international women’s day.pic.twitter.com/41lw5yie9M

— OutKick (@Outkick) March 2, 2023

On Twitter, Johnstone said he was featured with four “sisters” in the campaign. And, as backlash began rolling in, Hershey’s Canada shared a statement on Instagram claiming that its pro-woman campaign is supposed to be “inclusive.”

“We value togetherness and recognize the strength created by diversity,” the statement said. “Over the past three years, our Women’s History Month programming has been an inclusive celebration of women and their impact. We appreciate the countless people and meaningful partnerships behind these efforts.”

A post shared by Hershey’s Canada (@hersheyscanada)

Tweets shared by conservative commentator Matt Walsh also showed that Johnstone had a history of being a “vile, woman-hating extremist.”

A few years ago, Johnstone was posting with hashtags like “gayboy” and “proud slut” and writing apologies for his “cis privilege” and for taking up “space” as a “queer” male.
pic.twitter.com/SEpM6nNigJ

— Matt Walsh (@MattWalshBlog) March 3, 2023

Magically he now had the privilege of lecturing “cis allies,” even though he’d just recently been one himself pic.twitter.com/IPvVGBk2Wi

— Matt Walsh (@MattWalshBlog) March 3, 2023

Monroe Lace

This month, the California Bay Area crowned its new Miss San Francisco, who happens to be a biological male.

The new Miss San Francisco, Monroe Lace, appeared in an interview with local outlet KRON4 to discuss winning the pageant.

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Congrats to the new Miss San Francisco! She's also the first transgender woman to earn a title in the organization's 99-year history. Watch our interview with Monroe Lace here: <https://t.co/kRyEV6l0aT>

— KRON4 News (@kron4news) March 28, 2023

"I've been dreaming about it for so long, so when the crown was placed on my head, I literally was like, 'this isn't real life,'" Lace said in the interview. "All the pictures of me, are me just like crying. Seeing all my friends in the audience made it even more special."

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This month, California crowned its new Miss #SanFrancisco, the first #transgender woman to win a title in the organization's 99-year history. Monroe Lace joined us this morning on @kron4news. #lgbtq pic.twitter.com/sVFSU2KuJu

— Stephanie Lin (@StephanieLinTV) March 26, 2023

The host, Stephanie Lin, pointed out that "we're at this time where women have gained so many privileges...at the same time, a number of privileges are being taken away [from women]," seemingly ignoring the fact that Lace won a competition against biological females who were deserving of the title. She boasted on social media that Lace will go on to compete in the upcoming Miss California pageant.

In November, a biological male named Brian Nguyen won a beauty pageant in New Hampshire. Many Twitter users criticized Nguyen's win, pointing out that deserving female participants who competed were robbed of the opportunity to receive a scholarship and advance in the competition.

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Would a biological woman who looked like that ever in a million years win a beauty pageant? Transwomen are being given awards over biological women simply to virtue signal.

— Laura Powell (@LauraPowellEsq) November 9, 2022

In November, the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that beauty pageant organization Miss United States of America LLC cannot be forced to allow biological males who identify as transgender women to compete in its competitions, which Townhall covered. The lawsuit surrounded an anti-discrimination law on gender identity in Oregon. The judges said the law cannot be applied to the pageant because it violates its free speech rights.

Tiffany Thomas

Lia Thomas is not the only biological male athlete to identify as a woman and rob females of accolades in their sport. Tiffany Thomas, a transgender athlete, won a women's cycling event in New York City, which Townhall reported.

Tiffany Thomas, a biological male, reportedly rides for L.A. Sweat.

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□Trans-identifying male, Tiffany Thomas (46) wins NYC women's cycling event, angering critics: 'Not fair at all'@i_heart__bikes @libbyemmons <https://t.co/fcUCbO580a>
[pic.twitter.com/HG23bNrG0D](https://t.co/fcUCbO580a)

— ICONS Women (@icons_women) March 22, 2023

According to local outlet KATV, Tiffany Thomas went from “a total beginner to the elite level in just 5 years.”

In response to the criticism over the race, Tiffany Thomas wrote on Instagram that “my two best friends are just as strong as me, I just happened to have a better day on that particular day. They will assuredly beat me at future races.”

Shortly before Tiffany Thomas made headlines for winning the race, Hannah Arensman, a 35-time winner on the national cyclocross circuit, said in an amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court that she retired from her sport when she finished in fourth place between two male-bodied “transgender” athletes at a competition (via the Supreme Court of the United States):

I have decided to end my cycling career. At my last race at the recent UCI Cyclocross National Championships in the elite women's category in December 2022, I came in 4th place, flanked on either side by male riders awarded 3rd and 5th places. My sister and family sobbed as they watched a man finish in front of me, having witnessed several physical interactions with him throughout the race.

Additionally, it is difficult for me to think about the very real possibility I was overlooked for an international selection on the US team at Cyclocross Worlds in February 2023 because of a male competitor.

Moving forward, I feel for young girls learning to compete and who are growing up in a day when they no longer have a fair chance at being the new record 20 holders and champions in cycling because men want to compete in our division. I have felt deeply angered, disappointed, overlooked, and humiliated that the rule makers of women's sports do not feel it is necessary to protect women's sports to ensure fair competition for women anymore.

2.4.3 Learn the Lesson From Minnesota: Price Controls Don't Work (2023-04-01 22:09)

In 2006, when Congress was negotiating the Medicare Modernization Act, Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., proposed that a \$41 per month cap be placed on premiums for Medicare Part D, the

prescription drug benefit.

He worried insurers might offer a low entry rate, get customers hooked, as it were, then raise the rates to the point they were unaffordable. The proposal was rejected. Premiums opened at about \$22 per month on average. Even today, 17 years later, they stand at about \$32.

That has made Part D the rare government program that does its job for less than expected. Part D expenditures are down about a third from projections, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services says nearly all those savings resulted from the clause in the Medicare Modernization Act that forbids the federal government from being involved in drug negotiations.

Americans have saved billions of dollars because a top limit price control was not enacted. Millions have been saved or given better quality of life by drug makers being incentivized to create new and better products rather than settle for a hefty payday from the government.

Lawmakers may not have learned the lesson behind what happened with Part D, but drug makers have. That's why, in Minnesota, they are scrambling to influence the legislature to accomplish what Waxman could not and place a series of price restrictions on prescription drugs.

The proposal, HF 17 in the Minnesota House and SF 168 in the state Senate, is to create a seven-member Prescription Drug Affordability Board, appointed by the governor and leaders of the state House and Senate, along with an executive director and staff. It also calls for a 12-member Prescription Drug Affordability Council, appointed by the governor, to represent stakeholders, including patients, health care providers and, of course, pharmaceutical companies.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Board would review the prices of brand-name drugs, biologics, generic drugs and biosimilars based on the wholesale acquisition costs of those drugs within certain time periods or introductory prices. If the board determines a drug is priced too high, it would have the authority to set an upper limit at which insurance companies will have to pay, effectively disincentivizing pharmaceutical companies from ever trying to become more efficient or otherwise take action to lower the price.

Prices should not be based on wholesale acquisition costs, which essentially is a list price and does not come close to reflecting what patients actually pay for drugs after negotiations among pharmaceutical companies, pharmacy benefit managers, insurers and pharmacists. Locking in this higher price as the point of comparison will make Minnesota's drug program significantly more expensive.

States spend more on health care than they do on higher education, roads, police or corrections. Only welfare payments and schools take bigger bites out of their budgets. So it's doubly puzzling why Minnesota's legislature would want to create a two-headed bureaucratic monster that will only make its third-leading expenditure more expensive.

Unless, that is, one considers who supports this measure. State Rep. Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn, who led the hearing on the legislation in the House Commerce Committee, is the wife of Rory Witthuhn, senior director of actuarial consulting at United Health Group, one of the state's largest health insurance vendors.

Two other Democratic-Farmer-Labor cosponsors in the House – Kristin Bahner and Steve Elkins – worked for Optum and Optum Technology, respectively. Rep. Jessica Hanson has worked for Anthem, a major insurer in the state, for 14 years. Another, Rep. Liz Reyer, worked for nearly 20 years at Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Since 2017, employees at United Healthcare and Optum have given more than \$25,000 to current sponsors of this legislation.

Two other groups that prominently support left-leaning health measures also are involved – AARP and the National Academy for State Health Policy. Both have conflicts of interest that aren't mentioned in these debates. The state policy group receives funding from insurance companies and from Arnold Ventures, which funds Civica RX, a prescription drug non-profit attempting to produce its own generics to compete with other drug companies.

AARP receives more than a third of its income from United Health Group and Optum, two of the primary proponents of this measure.

The people who sell us our pharmaceuticals are all for this because they understand what Henry Waxman did not – that fixed prices are higher prices and the customers who are forced to rely on them do not benefit. The drug companies are doing fine. Time for Minnesota's lawmakers to take care of the people instead.

2.4.4 New Bill Would Criminalize 'Abortion Trafficking' of Minors (2023-04-01 22:11)

Legislation under review in Idaho would make it illegal for an adult to help a minor obtain an abortion without parental consent.

The measure, House Bill 242, would make it illegal for adults to obtain abortion pills for a minor and "recruiting, harboring, or transporting the pregnant minor" across state lines for an abortion. Those who break the law could face up to five years in prison (via the Associated Press):

The law would be the first of its kind in the U.S., where Republican-controlled states have been ramping up abortion bans and restrictions since the U.S. Supreme Court ended a nationwide right to access last year. Idaho is one of 13 states that already effectively ban abortion in all stages of pregnancy. It's also one of a handful that already have laws that could penalize those who help people of any age obtain abortions.

State Rep. Kevin Andrus, a Republican, told the outlet that parents' rights were the main focus of the bill.

"We want to make sure that parents have a say in the life choices of their children," Andrus said. "It will do a lot to save lives."

AP noted that among 47 states that reported abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2019, fewer than 9 percent were women ages 15 to 19 years old. In

Idaho, specifically, about 1 in 8 people to obtain abortions in the state were minors.

“That kind of proposal is definitely something that states should be looking at,” Kelsey Pritchard, a spokesperson for pro-life organization Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, told the outlet. “Idaho’s kind of thinking ahead here.”

Last summer, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned *Roe v. Wade*, which gave women the right to obtain an abortion in 1973. After *Roe* fell, several states passed laws outlawing or restricting abortion. Women reportedly began traveling to other states to obtain the procedure. And, abortion pill access became the new battleground for pro-abortion advocates.

2.4.5 Nashville’s Good Guys With Guns Show That America’s Courage Is Not Extinct (2023-04-01 22:25)

If you take an oath to protect and serve, and you end up outside of a schoolhouse with some gender freak psycho inside shooting kids, you face a stark choice. You can go in and kill the daughter of a bitch – there’s no gender insanity indulgence due this scumbag – or you can stay outside like a coward, a sissy, or an Uvalde cop. This week we saw, thanks to stunning body cam footage, that courage is not dead in America.

Words like “courage” today are almost a laugh line among our alleged betters, a relic of some bygone era, like “honor” and “normality.” The concept of someone sacrificing for another, of putting everything on the line just because he promised to do so and because he could not bear the thought of failing to keep his word is alien to our supposed best and brightest. What did those police officers have to gain from confronting the gunwoman? Maybe a round in the face. But you can watch the footage yourself. They did not hesitate. They did not dither. They went inside a building with a murderer intent on blowing their brains out. They had no idea where she was – she could have ambushed them. You saw them initially clearing each room systematically and moving forward as fast as they could. And then they heard the shots upstairs and they ran – not to safety, not to cover, but to the sound of the gun.

They crossed over the body of a dead child on the way, a graphic reminder of what could happen to them, but an even more graphic reminder that if they failed it would happen to other kids. No one made them do it. No one made them press the attack. Like that pathetic neuter cop cowering outside the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas School or the band of fearful flatfoots at Uvalde, they had the option to save themselves.

They chose to save the kids.

And when they rounded that corner and the killer came into view, they acted without hesitation and shot her to pieces.

Good riddance.

That is the fate that all such semi-human monsters deserve – to die hard and ugly in a hail of bullets. I will not mention the creature’s name – it deserves to be forgotten.

But the heroism of the cops deserves to be remembered and emulated – by you, by me, by all of us. They set the standard. And the rest of us citizens can meet it.

This murder spree has already faded from the regime media because some trans weirdo butchering little Christian kids does not help the narrative designed to disarm and disenfranchise normal citizens. Nor does the image of armed Americans confronting and killing the criminal. The regime media hates the idea of good guys with guns, because that presumes agency and courage among Americans and they want to stomp that out, so they will differentiate cops and the rest of us. Our would-be oppressors argue that we civilian citizens cannot rise to the occasion, that we are unfit to bear arms to do what those officers did. They argue that bravery is reserved for special people in uniforms. They claim you could never do that and that you should not even try. But this is a lie designed to keep you from being the hero every American can be.

Courage is not the preserve of a few select individuals but the birthright of all of us. Courage still lives in the hearts of normal Americans. We saw it on 9/11 when cops and firemen ran into the burning towers while normal citizens helped others escape, and when normal Americans took down Flight 93 rather than let the jihadi jerks run up their score. We see it in our troops – understand that in Kabul, those Marines and the soldier who died went right up to unsearched Afghan civilians because the senior civilian and military leadership had failed to build the infrastructure that could protect them. But our troops did not hesitate even though a bomber was a looming threat. Thirteen died.

And we see it when normal Americans carrying concealed drop killers and thugs. We see that more and more as more and more Americans accept the duty to carry concealed. We saw it this week in Nashville.

But our elite does not want a nation of heroes. It wants a nation of SSRI-zonked Tik Tok addicts lounging on their couches and accepting the narrative that they are worthless. The regime ensures that realistic tales of courage and victory are never told in our media or in the schools. Instead, it's all woke crap and pedo perversions designed to turn our young people into broken, alienated, and obedient serfs. But our young people have such residual strength of character that it does not always work. Those troops in Kabul came from our broken society, yet they had courage and honor. The young officers in Nashville came from our sick society and had courage and honor. It will take more than the puny DEI/CRT indoctrination of blue-haired weirdo teachers and movies about how the USA sucks to wring the bravery from the American soul.

Most of us will never have to face the choice those Nashville police officers made. Hell, I deployed overseas and at home multiple times and my biggest challenge was particularly dirty trucks. But one thing is clear. We all have the potential for greatness, the ability to choose to rise to the occasion and to act with courage and honor when the Schiff hits the fan.

Understand that you are the heir to America's legacy of heroes, whether your family has been here since the Mayflower or since Monday. We are the people who bashed in the Brits' bad teeth, who took Texas and California and conquered the West, who fought at San Juan Hill, Saint-Mihiel, Normandy, Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, Khe Sanh, and 73 Easting. Americans kick ass. We take names. That is your legacy.

Arm yourself. Become proficient with your weapons – at a minimum, you need a hand-

gun, a long gun, and another handgun and long gun. Maybe more. Carry where and when you can. An armed population is the best deterrent of criminals and tyrants. And when deterrence fails, regulate as the law allows.

Never give up hope. The regime wants you weak and afraid, passive and broken. But you are an American. You are one of a people that hears shooting and heads that way, weapon in hand, ready to do what Americans do. Put the bastard down. Those cops in Nashville were unusual for one reason and one reason only – we saw their courage. Most of the time we do not, but we can all give thanks that it is there inside all true American's hearts, undimmed, and undiminished, waiting for the moment that duty calls.

CBD Gummies en Espanol (2023-04-04 06:11:06)

However I could try to embrace that when they can. The best place for you to learn more in the matter of Physical Well Being is the Internet. I do know why this is. I expect I must be more positive. These are a couple of the causes. Hemp Gummies makes this look so easy. That was a sight for sore eyes. It's infinite.

<https://www.nutraket.com/peak-power-cbd-gummies/>

<https://www.nutraket.com/keto-xplode-nederlands/>

<https://www.nutraket.com/ketoxmed-ervaringen/>

<https://www.nutraket.com/meilleur-regime-2023/>

<https://www.offerplox.com/weight-loss/dietoxone/>

<https://www.offerplox.com/weight-loss/ketoxplode-avis/>

2.4.6 Our French Revolution (2023-04-09 15:39)

We are in a Jacobin Revolution of the sort that in 1793-94 nearly destroyed France. And things are getting scary.

The Democratic Party vanished sometime in 2020.

Hard-left ideologues absorbed it. They were bent on radically altering, or hijacking, existing institutions to force radical, equality-of-result agendas that otherwise do not earn majority support.

The American people want affordable power and fuel, and energy autonomy. They do not want a Green New Deal that results in dependence on the Middle East.

They want fiscal sobriety, not a permanent stagflationary economy marked by bank failures, soaring interest rates, crony capitalism, and subsidies for those who choose not to work.

They know no country can exist without a border, much less while offering blank checks to foreign cartels that kill 100,000 Americans yearly.

They demand realist deterrence abroad, not the current woke military whose erosion is spelling the end to American credibility and global stability.

Racists are eerily embracing discredited Neo-Confederate notions of racial chauvinism, discrimination, segregation, and the old one-drop rule of racial obsession. They are turning America toward a Balkanized war-of-all-against-all.

To implement such an unpopular program, the new Left must radically alter our institutions.

So the “Democrats” periodically threaten to pack the courts, end the filibuster, destroy the Electoral College, and override the states’ prerogatives to establish balloting laws.

They deny the committee assignments of the House minority leader. They engage in stunts like tearing up the State of the Union address on national television. With impunity, they mob the homes of Supreme Court justices to leverage their decisions.

Elites run this revolution, and is a top-down operation.

University deans all but prompt students to disrupt invited campus speakers. District attorneys release violent arrested criminals without bail. Woke generals call their Chinese counterparts to warn them against their own commander-in-chief.

The Pentagon lectures the country on its supposed innate racism – even as the United States continues to lose wars abroad, abandons billions of dollars of equipment to terrorists, and allows communist China to surveil domestic American military bases with impunity.

Words change their meanings. “Racist” now means “don’t dare object.” “White” became the pejorative stereotype used by racists. “Diversity” means tired orthodoxy. “Equity” is a synonym for bias. “Inclusion” ensures exclusion.



[1]

Seattle, Washington

Institutions are no longer recognizable. The FBI as we knew it no longer exists. Three former FBI directors either lied under oath to federal investigators or pleaded amnesia in congressional testimonies.

Our highest former national intelligence officers lied under oath to the Senate. The IRS is weaponized against political opponents of the Democrats. The Department of Justice is more likely to send the FBI after grammar school parents than mobs threatening the homes of Supreme Court justices.

Still, to thoroughly erase America, our Jacobins must radically alter our customs and traditions.

So under the cover of the COVID-19 quarantines, Election Day was made irrelevant. In the new America, 70 percent did not vote on the designated day but, fueled by third-party vote harvesting and relaxation of audits of non-Election-Day ballots, extended the vote over a period of several weeks.

Like the Jacobins, names, and dates had to be radically transformed. 1619, not 1776, is now America's birthdate, and, we are told, it was an ignominious one.

Statues are toppled, and careers Trotskyized.

Biological males suddenly have hijacked women's sports – destroying five decades of women's hard-won efforts to achieve equal treatment and respect in athletics.

What triggered the collective madness and this Jacobin takeover?

The Left's perfect storm of the 120 days of riot, death, arson and looting of 2020? The COVID-19 pandemic? The disastrous two-year lockdown? The 2016 election of the outsider Donald Trump?

All those catalysts and more.

As the country collapses under leftist nihilism, the revolution's last gasp is to destroy Trump – by empowering him. That is, the leftist legal vendetta is designed to win him just enough empathy to be nominated the Republican Party's presidential candidate, but then to keep on indicting, gagging, and hemorrhaging him legally until Election Day 2024.

Trump was the first president to be impeached twice, to be tried by the Senate as a private citizen, and to have his private home raided by the FBI. Now he is the first president to have been indicted, effectively ending America's moral authority abroad.

America now has three potential futures and two are bad.

First, the Jacobins have two more years to finish what they started as the founders' dream descends into our worst nightmare.

Second, the revolution has so warped our legal system, our voting on Election Day, and the FBI, the CIA, the Justice Department, and the IRS that even a despised, unpopular Left will "win" elections.

The third is that New York Prosecutor Alan Bragg has jumped the shark.

His pathetic prosecution is so patently incoherent, illiberal, and in spirit anti-American that two-thirds of the country will soon conclude the center is not holding. The Jacobins' reign of terror is unsustainable. And so in 2024, the Left will not be defeated but so defeated that it will be utterly discredited.

2.4.7 The Youth Awakening in America Has Begun (2023-04-09 15:56)

Looking at things through natural eyes, without faith and spiritual insight, it is not good for young people in America when it comes to their faith in the Lord.

Already in 2018, Barna could report that, “More than any other generation before them, Gen Z does not assert a religious identity. They might be drawn to spiritual things, but with a vastly different starting point from previous generations, many of whom received a basic education on the Bible and Christianity. And it shows: The percentage of Gen Z that identifies as atheist is double that of the U.S. adult population” (emphasis in the original).

Quoting from *The Kaleidoscope Effect: What Emerging Generations Seek in Leaders*, an article on Logos.com notes that, “Whereas 85 % of the silent generation (born 1928–1945) call themselves Christians, just 56 % of today’s younger Millennials (born 1990–1996) do the same, even though the vast majority (about 8 in 10) was raised in religious homes. Over the past 70 years, each successive generation has included fewer and fewer Christians, and the overwhelming majority of the Christians remaining today are over the age of 35.”

The same article notes that, “According to Springtide Research’s *The State of Religion and Young People* report, ‘Nearly 40 % of young people ages 13–25 indicate that they are unaffiliated, whether agnostic, atheist, or ‘nothing in particular.’”

Directly related to all this is the finding in a 2021 Barna poll that, “Nearly 40 Percent of U.S. Gen Zs, 30 Percent of Young Christians Identify as LGBTQ.” (The most recent Gallup poll puts the stats at about half or less than the Barna findings, but these numbers are still very significant, trending dramatically higher than among older generations.)

Why, then, do I say that a youth awakening has already begun in America? It is certainly not by way of a published statistical analysis, nor is it by my own personal surveying of hundreds of churches and youth ministries in America.

Instead, it is something I sense in my spirit, reinforced by something I have been witnessing with increasing frequency, namely, deep, powerful movings of the Spirit among spiritually hungry young people. Added to this is the ripeness of the harvest among the younger generation because of the increasing anxiety, depression, loneliness, fear, and uncertainty which they often experience/ This makes them more open to look to God for help and transformation.

Recently, Pastor Brent Simpson sent me a picture taken towards the end of their Sunday night service on January 29.

Brent is an ordained Assembly of God minister who leads Arise Church in Tampa (with three local campuses). He also helps church planters and those working to revitalize older, dying congregations in his denomination. And he has looked to me as a mentor over the years, because of which I have been able to see firsthand what the Spirit is doing in their midst.

January 29 was the last day of a 21-day corporate fast, meaning that many of the mem-

bers fasted during some or all of that time period, also gathering for special times of prayer.

At the end of the service, after I called on all present to surrender their lives afresh to the Lord, I then called all the young people in attendance to join me on the platform, from children to college students.

The platform was soon packed to capacity, as these young people began to cry out to God to move on their generation. (And remember: they had already been to a church service that morning and were now we're back out on a Sunday night.)

The photo that Brent sent me epitomizes the saying that one picture is worth a thousand words, as you can see the passion, the devotion, the hunger, and the fervor of these kids and young adults. This was not about entertainment or hype. This was about Jesus. All for Jesus! Heart and soul and mind and strength for the Lord!

I then turned to these young people and said with full assurance of faith, "Look at me! I'm not dreaming! You're going to see it with your own eyes! You're going to see a great youth awakening! You're going to see it!"

In the past, when gripped in the same way by the Spirit, I have turned to crowds of ministry school students and assured them of what was coming. I knew what I was saying was true as surely as I knew my own name, and by God's grace, those things have come to pass.

Now, I am convinced that something is afoot here in America among the young people, something that will be deep and lasting and radically transformational. And if it goes deep enough, it is even something that, over time, could turn the course of the nation.

And I don't say this because of a single service at a single church - although, again, that sacred moment captured on camera is priceless - but because I have seen similar scenes like this across America. God is powerfully on the move!

Of course, God has always been on the move in every generation, and there have always been small pockets of spiritually hungry young people. I am grateful for the multiplied thousands who have been seeking God in prayer and fasting over the last 25+ years.

But I truly believe something new has begun among us, which is why I announced on radio in late January that the beginning of the first wave of revival had already hit America. And, as many readers would recall, about one week later, the Lord Himself put an exclamation point on the subject of revival in America, sending a fresh outpouring to Asbury University.

2.4.8 4 Keys to Forgiveness to Ponder This Easter Season (2023-04-09 15:58)

As we celebrate Easter, the concept of forgiveness has been pressed on my heart. Perhaps that is because this specific season serves as a special time of reflection revolving around God's tangible act of goodness and grace.

Forgiveness is a foundational principle that is frequently talked about both within and outside of the Church—yet, how many people know what true forgiveness looks like? It's a

common struggle that we cover on “Prayer Therapy with Dr. Phil” on pray.com, but here are a few basics that are helpful for us all to be reminded of.

What is Forgiveness?

Going through the motions, saying the words, “I forgive _ _ _,” and trying to push painful memories under the emotional rug in our subconscious isn’t enough. If this is our forgiveness process, we are oftentimes left feeling still angry and resentful towards those we need to forgive. This is because although we have tried to forgive in our minds, we have yet to forgive in our hearts and that means we have to exercise our God given Free Will and choose to let go of our emotions about the transgression we believe we have suffered. We choose to turn it over to God instead of continuing to feel victimized.

Forgiveness from the depths of our hearts is a daunting process but it is a choice God gives us the strength to make. It is rather scary to think about reliving our pain and suffering; we think, ‘I’m out of that place. I don’t want to go back there. I just want to move on.’

But putting our past offenders into a compartmentalized box in the back of our minds, telling ourselves we have forgiven them when we really have not, hurts everyone. It hurts them because (whether they know it or not) they are robbed of grace and love from us—who are free to give it. It hurts us (and our loved ones) because it damages our other relationships, our state of health and our self-esteem. It hurts God because He knows the life of freedom and joy we all could experience—the life we are inherently bypassing by not walking in true heart forgiveness towards others.

Forgiveness is not easy. On the contrary, it is one of the most difficult things we absolutely must do on this side of heaven. Forgiveness does not mean that what the person did was right or acceptable; rather, it means that we are able to ultimately overcome what was meant for evil, allowing God to transform our hearts and write beautiful redemption stories in our lives.

So, how do we truly forgive?

Resolve to choose to give up the harsh, destructive feelings of anger, resentment and bitterness.

Despite what the world tells us, it is not our right or privilege to harbor pernicious heart postures towards those who have hurt us. In fact, the longer we cling to these feelings, the more ingrained they become within the depths of our soul—and the harder they become to uproot. Rather, we are called to another standard; we must willingly give these up so that they will not poison us from the inside out and multiply from within us.

Let go of revenge—and cosmic revenge.

Forgiveness involves letting go of our desire to get even. When we hope to see another person hurt, embarrassed or paid back for what they have done to us—we can be assured that we have yet to forgive them. This mindset is an undeniable stronghold. Thankfully, there is hope. God’s sovereignty assures us that His power can demolish strongholds in our lives. We must be willing to surrender desire for revenge, allowing grace to take root within us and

consume our hearts.

Choose not to focus on the offense.

While we will always retain certain memories of the past, they can serve as a chapter in our stories that no longer define us or rob us of joy and freedom. We don't have to read from that book of pain every day. We can put it on a "back shelf," and choose to move forward.

Love them, pray for them, and bless them.

I firmly believe it is impossible to remain wholly passive or neutral towards those who have hurt us. Therefore, to truly combat unforgiveness, it is absolutely necessary to turn hatred on its head by intentionally choosing to love, serve and pray for our offenders. It's incredibly hard to resent someone when we are making every effort to meet them with genuine kindness. That doesn't necessarily mean you have to interact with them at all. This is between you and God, and it may all take place within your heart. Every situation is different, but the constant is the grace with which you manage yourself.

In light of the present Easter season, I am left to ponder the depth of forgiveness Christ stepped into for us all. Jesus was the perfect example of quintessential forgiveness and pure love. Though He was beaten, mocked and left hanging on a cross, in his last moments He lovingly asked God to forgive those persecuting Him. This is real love.

As we celebrate Easter with our families this season, may we consider those laid upon our hearts who need our forgiveness and love. Whether they are deserving or not, we must forgive as God has chosen to forgive us. On the other side of true forgiveness is real joy, contagious love and transformative freedom.

2.4.9 What Happened in Wisconsin Could Be a Massive Red Flag for Republicans (2023-04-09 16:26)

I dismissed the arguments about abortion being a critical issue that could engender Republicans. Every governor who signed more restrictive laws post-Dobbs won their re-election bids. When polled, these restrictions are not unpopular. Kansas was used as an example of the political blowback on the GOP, but Kansas already bans state funding, has parental consent laws, and bans abortions after 20 weeks. Many, including conservatives in the state, viewed the right-to-life amendment to the state constitution as unnecessary—you don't get 58 percent voting "no" without GOP voters. I think the fallout and the media coverage will be overblown, but it's time to pay more attention to the detrimental aspects because what happened in Wisconsin should be a massive warning sign to Republicans ahead of the 2024 elections.

The state has a solid 4-3 liberal majority on its state supreme court. The new judge, Janet Protasiewicz, has vowed to roll back abortion restrictions and torpedo the legislative map that favors the GOP. These are not shocking consequences, but the candidate was backed by groups who supposedly represented 2020 election deniers. The latter part is more relevant right now. Abortion isn't popular and never will be, but voters are tired of candidates,

specifically Republicans, whining about the 2020 election.

There was funny business, but that fight is long over. It's done, and voters, Republicans included, want to move on with their lives. That issue, I think, hurt the GOP more in 2022 than the abortion fallout. We had a slew of candidates who would pepper their rallies about the 2020 election. It scared away right-leaning independents and other voters who hate Biden but weren't going to give the reins of power to this rambunctious bunch as their wallets are being torched by high inflation.

This Wisconsin Supreme Court race also seemed to have a candidate quality issue as well, I hate to use that phrase, but it is what it is (via NYT):

The commanding victory on Tuesday by a liberal candidate in a pivotal race for the Wisconsin Supreme Court showed the enduring power of abortion rights and issues of democracy as motivators for Democratic voters, as well as a continuing struggle among conservatives to put forward candidates who can unite Republicans and win general elections.

The liberal candidate, Janet Protasiewicz, swept onto the bench by 11 percentage points, a staggering margin in an evenly divided battleground state that signaled just how much last summer's Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* has transformed American politics.

The Wisconsin race centered squarely on abortion rights and political representation: Judge Protasiewicz all but promised voters that if they elected her, the court's new 4-to-3 liberal majority would reverse Wisconsin's 1849 abortion ban and overturn the state's famously gerrymandered, Republican-friendly legislative maps.

Wisconsinites responded to that pitch, rejecting a conservative candidate backed by anti-abortion groups who took 2020 election deniers as a client and struggled to rally Republican donors behind him.

Justice Kelly, the Republican, struggled to get donors behind him, admitting a statewide race is hard in rallies. That's not what you want to hear. The hyper-focus on rising crime is an issue, but we have yet another election where it falls flat. Some retooling needs to occur, and fast.

2.4.10 Mary Was A She (2023-04-09 16:38)

She matters. Without a 'she' and a 'he', we wouldn't be we. They wouldn't be they. You and I wouldn't be. Period.

We live in a culture that is increasingly more hopeless and meaningless because of the determination to be genderless. Our DNA determines our sex/gender, but anytime we deny God's design for humanity, disaster always follows.

We live in a culture so obsessed with self that our national religion might as well be narcissism. Too many want to live a life of boundless "freedom", regardless of how their lives or

actions negatively affect others. People want to make up false “authentic” (yet drastically altered) selves and demand that the world see them through broken filters. Social media platforms, academics, news media, and politicians amplify this cult of selfishness by advancing policies that try to silence any (informed) dissent.

We’re not avatars living in some make-believe world. We’re all bound by the same scientific and moral laws. This is reality. Tragically, many have no use for what it actually is. They want to conjure up a surreality untethered from facts and consequences.

But truth can never be silenced. It will always find a way to cry out. It’s why my wife and I wrote the ground-breaking children’s book *She is She*, to celebrate undeniable, biological, beautiful her. We’re definitely not good at being quiet.

Mary was a ‘she’, and of course, she knew it. She understood that it was humanly impossible to become pregnant without sex, hence the response to the angel Gabriel: “How will this be, since I am a virgin and have no intimacy with any man?” Several thousand years ago, this basic science was understood. She recognized her beautiful biological differences.

The Savior of the world needed a woman, a mother, a female, to carry Him in a supernatural pregnancy and bring Him into the world. She mattered. All of us enter into this life through the natural process of pregnancy that can only occur in those designed to conceive. Women. “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus,” the angel explained in Luke 1:31.

Gabriel didn’t approach Joseph and offered a gender-bending twist. Indeed, God can operate in any miraculous way He chooses, but He adhered to His design for sexuality. He used their marital relationship to make possible our path to salvation.

Mary was no frail female. She understood the dangers – in normal circumstances – of becoming pregnant “outside” of her marriage with Joseph. She could’ve been publicly shamed, even worse, stoned. What courage for her to agree to play an integral role in God’s plan: “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” Her level of self-sacrifice defies the narcissism of our age.

A Savior was born because she was she. Mary chose the gift of motherhood. She trusted in the Lord to help navigate through the humanly “unplanned.” There was no “how-to” book on this. She clung to the angel’s words: “For with God, nothing shall be impossible.”

A Savior was born because he was he. Joseph chose the gift of fatherhood. He could’ve been a rejecter but became a protector instead. Both of their lives were in constant peril under Roman rule, under a demented King who wanted to kill their child, and under the tremendous inconceivable weight of raising the Son of the Most High.

This Easter, we get to celebrate how God used a mother and a father to change the world forever. We get to rejoice because they went to great lengths to protect him, love him, and release him into his ministry. We get to be redeemed because God loved us so much that He sent His only Son – Jesus – to die for our sins in the most brutal death one could imagine. He rose again to prove there is no power stronger than the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Love breaks through confusion. Love breaks through hopelessness. Love breaks through

anything to get to our hearts.

Like the Lord reassured Paul the Apostle in a hostile environment: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.” Trends change. Culture changes. But the truth never does. God’s heart for rescuing and redeeming the broken always remains the same.

And like Mary said in The Magnificat (or Mary’s Song): “My soul magnifies and exalts the Lord. And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.” Yes, we’re all sinners in need of a Savior.

2.4.11 Technology is to blame for the ‘Great Resignation’ (2023-04-12 21:02)

Have you heard about the September exodus? More than four million Americans quit their jobs that month, shattering the record for resignations previously set the month before. And some 40 % of remaining employees are thinking of quitting, too, according to a Microsoft report.

The crisis is even worse in technology. TalentLMS and Workable reported recently that 72 % of US-based tech employees are thinking of quitting their job in the next 12 months.

It’s not just the US. The Great Resignation is a global phenomenon.

[Keep up on the latest thought leadership, insights, how-to, and analysis on IT through Computerworld’s newsletters.]

Pundits point to many causes for the trend, from government stimulus checks to the rise of remote work to entitled millennials and even pandemic-driven stress.

In general, it’s clear that there’s a growing incompatibility between the reality and the expectation of the employee experience.

Making matters worse: The more people quit, the harder life gets for those who remain on the job. This is especially true of tech workers. IT departments have been notoriously understaffed, and as the Great Resignation increasingly hits tech workers, all employees suffer more downtime, cyberattacks, and tech implementation slowdowns.

This is an emergency. You need to know why people are resigning in such high numbers.

[REGISTER NOW for May 11, in-person event, FutureIT Washington, D.C.: Building the Digital Business with Cloud, AI and Security]

The many reasons people quit

After extensively reviewing the interviews, surveys, and reports, I’ve compiled a list of the major reasons people give for quitting during the Great Resignation. These are:

Frustration with laptops, desktops, networks, and systems that don’t work well, a trend exacerbated during the pandemic when many remote employees were literally left to their own devices. There’s also widespread confusion about how to proceed when technology doesn’t work.

Lack of control over workspaces and processes. Many employees feel they have much to contribute to how work gets done, but are blocked from having their say.

A “toxic mix” of low pay, high workloads, and a broader lack of recognition. This observation comes from the Trades Union Congress about employees in the public sector.

Lack of work-life balance. Covid-driven remote work gave millions of employees a taste of commuting less and spending more time with family, and they realize that they might retain that with another employer.

General inflexibility about how things work, how work is done, and when.

Lack of training opportunities. Tech workers, especially, want more training opportunities — 91 % said so in the TalentLMS and Workable survey report.

Many are quitting because they’re physically and emotionally exhausted. And the departure of so many makes it that much worse for those who remain.

While these reasons aren’t surprising, it’s important to realize what all these have in common.

This is all about technology... and culture

While businesses of all sizes are scratching their heads and trying to figure this out, the truth is that our technology products and how they’re used, plus our culture around management and employee interaction, is exactly what’s driving people out the door.

Technology is frustrating workers, creating friction and inertia, blocking employee progress and empowerment, creating needless work and engendering a feeling of isolation and impotence.

The good news is that better technology is a big part of the solution. Here’s what you need to do to start retaining and attracting employees.

Transform training. Artificial Intelligence(AI)-based adaptive learning technology can make employee training far more relevant by enabling employee-driven learning based on what the person already knows — ending the frustration with classroom-like or generic training systems. In general, ramp up training and career development. Promote from within whenever possible. Guide employees on their career path, wherever it leads, within the company. Just as products need a roadmap, so does each employee.

Enable natural connections between employees. User-friendly collaboration tools foster connection and culture. Focus not just on getting the work done, but on team building and the psychology of each employee being part of a team.

Use advanced technology for HR, but over-communicate with a human touch. Automated HR is contributing to the burnout issue. When it comes to changes in employee status, pay, benefits, supervisors and other personnel events that have an emotional impact on the employee, the communication around this should always be human-to-human, not emails or automated notifications.

Avoid employee surveillance. Many companies reacted to the rush to remote work with employee surveillance software. Monitoring screen activity, mouse movements, time online and other metrics are the surest way to drive employees away. Nobody wants Big Brother to always be watching — especially in one’s own home. Develop alternative means to measure and gauge employee performance. Be results-driven and don’t rank employees based on how often their mouse moves. This is true of remote workers, office workers, and everyone in the new hybrid workforce.

Embrace transparency, authenticity and empathy. Most business culture change happens because each year a new group of young people enter the workforce and an older group

retires. The youngest employees — those who have joined the workforce in the past 10 years — have very different expectations about how their employer behaves. They want to know what's going on, and to work with human beings who care. If younger employees feel like a cog in a machine, they're more likely to pack up and go.

Embrace agility and flexibility. Technology that drives flexibility in hybrid work, remote work, shifting teams, and flexible hours will go a long way in improving the employee experience and sense of wellbeing.

Develop a holistic approach to employee satisfaction. With remote and hybrid workforces, companies need to help employees cope psychologically and emotionally to the realities of disparate and shifting work locations and environments. In the past, it was enough to hold occasional team-building exercises and offsite events. Now, managers, supervisors and leaders should be helping employees not only feel like they're part of the team, but also helping employees maintain physical and mental health. Part of this process is technological. The feelings of connection, involvement, the sense of mission, and a work-life balance can all be helped — or harmed — by technology choices, as well as work policies and management approaches.

Make burnout avoidance top of the list when choosing technology. With each passing month, AI gains ground in tech, for example. But it can have opposite effects, either contributing to burnout or alleviating it. AI that replaces human interaction — for example, overly automated HR — can leave employees feeling frustrated and abandoned. AI that augments human performance can boost employees, making them feel empowered and supported. It's also true that automating repetitive tasks can free up employees to do the things that only humans can do. Automation should be applied to helping and empowering humans, not replacing them.

The reasons for the Great Resignation are many. But it's time we acknowledge the role technology has played in driving away employees in droves — and the role it can play in bringing people back by creating a flexible, humane, and empowering workplace that will make employees happy, productive and invested in the mission of the company.

2.4.12 NY Democrat to Testify Against 'Soft on Crime' Alvin Bragg, Praises Giuliani for Saving the City (2023-04-16 20:41)

A Democrat New York City councilman will testify against Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, saying the woke DA has contributed to the city's "lawlessness."

Bob Holden will appear at the GOP-led House Judiciary Committee, "Victims of Violent Crime in Manhattan," next week, pointing fingers at Bragg's soft-on-crime policies is driving chaos into the streets of the city.

"When Bragg came in, he issued that ridiculous edict that he was not going to prosecute smaller crimes," Holden said. "What do we have in New York City? We have lawlessness on the streets."

Holden, a long-time New Yorker, said he had never seen the city so dangerous as it is now, noting the timing of the rise in crime directly correlates to when Bragg took over as DA in January 2022.

"I have an issue with soft-on-crime politicians and DAs, so, you know, I offered. I said, 'Look, I have a view of this that's different from my Democratic, or most of my Democratic colleagues, so I would say that there are issues why New York City is the way it is," Holden said.

Holden recalled that on day one of Bragg being in office, red flags went up throughout the city. Then, on his third day in office, the woke DA ordered prosecutors not to give out prison sentences for several crimes and downgrade charges for crimes such as robberies and commercial burglaries.

He noted New York's crime issue improved when Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani was in office. Then, however, it rapidly declined through the years as the city's implementation of a sweeping bail reform law in 2020 took effect.

"I credit Rudy Giuliani as the mayor who saved New York... I lived through that. They don't like to hear it. But I lived through it," Holden said. "I remember the city turning around, and we had 17 straight years of decline in crime until the bail reform, and then you couple that with DAs like Bragg, and it's a bad, bad recipe there."

As a result, Bragg claims, police officers don't have the motive to arrest and implement law and order in the predominantly blue city.

The Republican committee also plans to have Madeline Brame, whose son was fatally stabbed; Harlem bodega clerk Jose Alba, who was once charged with murder over the death of someone who attacked him at work; and Jennifer Harrison, founder of Victims Rights NY to all testify against Bragg's pro-crime policies.

2.4.13 A Radical Group Tried to Disrupt 'Record' Fundraiser Headlined by Ron DeSantis (2023-04-16 20:42)

On Friday night, Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) was the keynote speaker at the Amos Tuck fundraising dinner in Manchester, New Hampshire. Not only were claims from the media that DeSantis was having fundraising issues "totally fake news" according to NH GOP Chairman Chris Ager, but the popular governor brought in a "record" amount of money. Not all were happy with DeSantis' appearance, though, as a group known as If Not Now tried to disrupt his speech.

#BREAKING: Protestors storm an unphased Gov. Ron DeSantis at New Hampshire event

They chanted "Jews against DeSantis!"

DeSantis: "Why you'd want to pay the ticket to get in just to do that, I don't know!"
pic.twitter.com/zwNnlz7590

— Florida's Voice (@FLVoiceNews) April 14, 2023

DeSantis was talking about previous governors' races when two women came up to the

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stage. "Yeah, thank you," the governor said as security removed them. The young women yelled out "Jews against DeSantis!" while they were hauled off, as the audience booed the brief interruption.

The governor took it in stride, though. "You gotta have a little spice in the speech, right? I mean you gotta have a little fun," he said as the audience applauded the removal of the women. "Why you'd want to pay the ticket to get in just to do that, I don't know, but different strokes for different folks," DeSantis said as he then continued on.

The activists have taken their radical tactics elsewhere, which have been carried out in even more egregious ways. And, to say that they are anti-Israel would be an understatement with all the accusations they hurl at the only democracy in the Middle East with claims about an "occupation," bringing them in line with the anti-Israel squad members in Congress.

A glowing profile of the group in New York magazine from 2018 discusses how they also have disrupted Birthright trips, sought to impart their views onto counselors at Jewish summer camps to be taught to campers, and as one of them even did at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Israel, "drew parallels between Nazi genocide and the plight of the Palestinians."

"American Jews organizing our community to end U.S. support for Israel's apartheid system and demand equality, justice, and a thriving future for all," their Twitter bio reads.

The group's pinned tweet is a thread which contains another angle of the interruption, which claims they are "making clear that DeSantis is an antisemite whose actions and policies both support Israeli apartheid and put Jews in danger."

BREAKING: IfNotNow members are confronting Ron DeSantis at a GOP fundraiser in New Hampshire this evening.

We're making clear that DeSantis is an antisemite whose actions and policies both support Israeli apartheid and put Jews in danger. [THREAD pic.twitter.com/SwCUuCAtMb](https://pic.twitter.com/SwCUuCAtMb)
— IfNotNow (@IfNotNowOrg) April 14, 2023

Also targeted in the thread is American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a political action committee which emphasizes it's bipartisan, pro-Israel ties.

AIPAC and DeSantis support occupation and apartheid at the expense of Jewish safety.

We believe in the opposite vision: where liberation for Jews and Palestinians are inextricably linked. We fight for equality, justice, and a thriving future for all Israelis and Palestinians.
— IfNotNow (@IfNotNowOrg) April 14, 2023

Earlier on Friday, the same day that the fundraiser occurred, the group retweeted Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY), who along with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), led members in a letter to President Joe Biden and Secretary Antony Blinken regarding their concerns with the new Israeli government. The tweet is noteworthy in that it claims Israel as an "increasingly authoritarian regime."

We have a choice:

Keep funding Israel's increasingly authoritarian regime as it continues to oppress Palestinians...

Or stand up for democracy and equality for all.

Thank you @RepBowman & @SenSanders for your moral leadership. <https://t.co/1Cv1fbBHTZ>
— IfNotNow (IfNotNowOrg) April 14, 2023

DeSantis' record shows that this group doesn't speak for Florida Jews, though. The popular sitting governor was not only reelected last November by nearly 20 points, he did so with a significant portion of the Jewish vote, a demographic which doesn't typically vote Republican.

Last December, The Jewish Chronicle published an article raising questions about DeSantis' political future, also discussing his record as it applies to Jews and Israel:

Days after his stunning 19-point win, DeSantis was the star of the show at the Republican Jewish Coalition's annual con-flab where he wowed conservatives with his Florida "blueprint for success" – an apparently electorally potent formula which stands in stark to the party's underwhelmingly mid-terms' performance.

A Catholic, DeSantis has long been keen to present himself as a strong friend of Jews and a staunch ally of Israel.

"We won the highest share of the Jewish vote for any Republican candidate in Florida history," the governor boasted. "I will say if you look at our record on issues related to Israel and supporting the Jewish community it is second to none."

DeSantis, who pledged when he ran for a first term in 2018 that he would be the "nation's most pro-Israel governor", tickled his conservative hosts by referring to the West Bank as "Judea and Samaria" and denying it was occupied. "We understand history. We know those are thousands of years of connection to the Jewish people," he suggested. "I don't care what the State Department says. They are not occupied territory, it is disputed territory."

DeSantis' record on the Jewish state certainly isn't all talk. He took his whole cabinet to Israel in 2019; used Florida's anti-BDS legislation to take on Ben & Jerry's and Airbnb; and increased collaboration between Israel and the state's aerospace industry.

The governor also cheer-led a series of Trump-era policies such as moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem and recognising Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Unsurprisingly, he's not a fan of what he terms the "Biden-Khamenei nuclear deal".

DeSantis has also enacted other measures to crack down on antisemitism in Florida's public schools and boost Holocaust education and better security at Jewish day schools.

No wonder Jewish conservatives are swooning. "A remarkable Jewish renaissance is under way in Florida," wrote Bush administration alumni Elliott Abrams and his co-chair of the Jewish Leadership Conference, Eric Cohen, earlier this year. "Jewish schools and synagogues are rapidly expanding. Jews from the Northeast and Midwest, as well as Latin America and Israel, are migrating to the Sunshine State in significant numbers, making the Jewish communities there lively and varied."

In a state which is home to over 650,000 Jews – America’s third largest Jewish electorate – there is naturally a strong political imperative to woo the “kosher vote”. Four years ago, the governor’s Democrat opponent, left-winger Andrew Gillum, learned that to his cost. Gillum lost the gubernatorial race by 30,000 votes after DeSantis repeatedly attacked him for being insufficiently supportive of Israel, suggesting that his positions were more appropriate to “running for mayor of the Gaza Strip”. (Gillum denied that he supported BDS and said he’d enforce the state’s 2016 anti-boycotts legislation).

And while he didn’t win a majority of Jewish voters – Republicans put his score at 45 percent – DeSantis’ overall victory margin was no doubt padded by this impressive performance. Indeed, Florida’s growing ultra-Orthodox population – who largely back the Republicans – is thought to have been key to DeSantis’ inroads into the Democrats’ hold on the Jewish vote.

The Jerusalem Post shared shortly after the election last year that exit polling shows Jews are increasingly voting Republican, with the 33 percent figure from 2022 up from 30 percent in 2020. Sam Markstein, of the Republican Jewish Coalition, is quoted as saying that the 2022 election saw “a record-smashing level of support in Florida, at 45 % of the Jewish vote.”

2.4.14 Kevin McCarthy’s Job Approval Reaches New Heights Since Taking the House Speaker Gavel (2023-04-16 20:49)

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy’s (R-Calif) popularity has spiked since taking on the new job as Speaker of the House this year.

According to the latest Economist/YouGov Poll, McCarthy’s job approval rating is taking new heights, up 15 points from last year. He currently has a rating of positive seven.

The poll found that 44 percent of voters approved of McCarthy’s job as Speaker, while only 37 percent said they disapproved.

In December, just a month before securing the House Speaker votes, McCarthy’s job approval rating was at a negative eight, with only 36 percent of voters strongly or somewhat approving of his job, which at the time was the House minority leader.

McCarthy secured the gavel after a dramatic four days and 15 rounds of voting. As he reaches his 100-day mark in the new Congress, his time has been spent destroying Democrat’s radical plans, boosting Republicans’ priorities, and doubling down on his statement that President Joe Biden is jeopardizing the U.S. economy.

McCarthy has had a successful four months.

He has pushed Biden to sign the D.C. Crime Bill Nullification, which blocks the nation’s capital, “proposed soft-on-crime criminal code rewrite that treated violent criminals like victims and discarded the views of law enforcement.” He also launched a bipartisan select committee to confront China’s global influence and the dangerous implications the communist country has on the U.S.

However, he did stop short of agreeing on the debt limit with the Democrats. Biden and his party have demanded a clean package without added frills, while McCarthy and the rest of the GOP are pressing spending cuts.

Per the Republican's proposal, if major cutbacks exist, the GOP looks to extend the debt limit until May 2024. McCarthy also wants to examine Biden's hefty student loan forgiveness program and "green" tax credits.

To compare, when Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif) was Speaker of the House last year, her job approval rating was at a negative five, with only 45 percent of Americans approving of her role, more than 50 percent disapproved

2.4.15 Alleged Nintendo Switch 2 Specs Leak Out: Powered by NVIDIA Ampere GPU With Ray Tracing & DLSS 2.2 Support (2023-04-16 20:55)

Nintendo's Next-Gen Switch 2 Console Specs Leak Out, Could Be Powered By NVIDIA Ampere GPU With Ray Tracing & DLSS 2.2 Support

Yesterday's NVIDIA leak was undoubtedly a major one, revealing several crucial and confidential information of existing and upcoming products. One of the leaks seemingly featured the source code for NVIDIA's DLSS technology but users were quick to spot 'NVN2' mentioned in the source files which is allegedly the graphics API for the next-generation Switch 2 or Switch Pro consoles.

Related Story

Nathan Birch

The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom Trailer Shows Ganondorf, Possible Dungeons, More

NVIDIA leaks have "nvn2", which seems to be the graphics api for the Switch Pro, based on Ampere with ray tracing support and DLSS 2.2 pic.twitter.com/k6nEr31CcY

— Nikki™ 🐦 (@NWPlayer123) March 1, 2022

Digging through the leaked files, several users were able to spot that the NVN2 API is designed to work with NVIDIA's Ampere GPU architecture and will feature support for both Ray Tracing & the aforementioned DLSS (2.2) technology. Now what's more interesting is that there are references to the T234/T239 SOCs which according to Kopite7kimi were going to power the new Nintendo Switch 2 console. Do note that there have already been reports of a DLSS powered Switch console in the works prior to this leak.

NVIDIA's leaked files mention NVN2 API which is used specifically by the Switch console from Nintendo. (Image Credits: TechpowerUp)

NVIDIA's leaked files mention NVN2 API which is used specifically by the Switch console from Nintendo. (Image Credits: TechpowerUp)

These SOCs will be a custom Orin design and will have a codename starting with a 'D'. The two possible codenames for the SOC are either Dane or Drake though some believe that these SOCs and the codenames were only specific to the Switch Pro which has been canceled in favor of a truly next-gen Switch console.

The T234 SOC is suggested to feature 2048 Ampere GPU CUDA Cores and 12x ARM Cortex-A78AE (Hercules) 64-bit cores. The T239 which will be custom-designed based on this is suggested to offer slightly different specifications. The specific GPU that the SOC will be using seems to be the Ampere GA10F and it is rumored to feature the chip is said (or rumored) to feature the same SEC8N rate as ORIN, 1024 FP32 rate, or half of Orin. The SOC will also likely carry AV1 support.

It's funny. What I said about "the new Switch SoC"?

1. T239 ✓
2. Black Knight/Dane Whitman ☐ (Tim Drake is also start from D.) ☐☐☐
3. AD10F/based on Ada Lovelace ☐ (GA10F)
4. SEC8N/the same as Orin ☐
5. 1024FP32/half of Orin ☐

— kopite7kimi (@kopite7kimi) March 2, 2022

While the leak does report these specifications to be true, we can't say with certainty that these will be the final specs used for the next-gen Nintendo Switch 2 console. It could be entirely possible that these specs are specific to an unreleased or canceled version of the console and a new variant with far better specs could be in the works. So in the end, it's best we wait for final announcement or confirmation from Nintendo itself.

2.4.16 BREAKING: Anheuser-Busch CEO Speaks After Company Gets Crushed (2023-04-16 21:00)

After alienating "fratty" customers and hiring biological male Dylan Mulvaney to promote Bud Light, resulting in a \$5 billion loss over the past few days, Anheuser-Busch CEO Brendan Whitworth is finally weighing in.

"As the CEO of a company founded in America's heartland more than 165 years ago, I am responsible for ensuring every consumer feels proud of the beer we brew, We're honored to be part of the fabric of this country. Anheuser-Busch employs more than 18,000 people and our independent distributors employ an additional 47,000 valued colleagues. We have thousands of partners, millions of fans and a proud history supporting our communities, military, first responders, sports fans and hard-working Americans everywhere."

"We never intended to be part of a discussion that divides people. We are in the business of bringing people together over a beer," he continued. "My time serving this country taught me the importance of accountability and the values upon which America was founded: freedom, hard work and respect for one another. As CEO of Anheuser-Busch, I am focused on building and protecting our remarkable history and heritage."

pic.twitter.com/oynyPzd1FM

— Anheuser-Busch (@AnheuserBusch) April 14, 2023

"I care deeply about this country, this company, our brands and our partners. I spend

much of my time traveling across America, listening to and learning from our customers, distributors and others," Whitworth concluded. "Moving forward, I will continue to work tirelessly to bring great beers to consumers across our nation."

Meanwhile, no word from Bud Light Vice President of Marketing Alissa Heinerscheid over her decision to destroy the brand.

Alissa Heinerscheid, Bud Light's VP of Marketing, doubles down on her extreme woke strategy to promote the "declining" American beer brand to "young people", while smearing her former customers as "fratty and out of touch".

How's that working out for you, lady? @budlight pic.twitter.com/zNYKbMnZnu
— Old Row (@OldRowOfficial) April 9, 2023

2.4.17 A Liberal Magazine Got Blunt About Ukraine (2023-04-21 20:53)

It's been quite some time since I've read something from The Nation and almost wholly agreed with the premise. It doesn't happen often, but a broken clock is right twice a day. And it so happens to be about foreign policy and Ukraine. It's a piece that some Biden supporters would smear as pro-Putin propaganda because it's not a full-throated endorsement of our proxy war in that Eastern European nation that's lasted over a year. The article is blunt: we can't keep up with Ukraine's military needs, these forever wars are killing our future, and it's time voters stand up to the bipartisan war machine that's run amok for the better part of a generation.

Some interesting points were mentioned mid-way through the piece. It's The Nation, so be prepared that the opening paragraphs trash the GOP. We produce over 12,000 155mm shells every day, but Ukraine has fired that many and more within two days. The economic fallout from America's perpetual state of war has led to slippage concerning global currency reserves. The Great Society was probably the Democrats' most extensive attempt at a wholesale overhaul of the country, and it might have been successful if Vietnam hadn't derailed it. The piece aptly quotes the late Lyndon Johnson saying, "that bitch of a war" ruined his domestic agenda and presidency. It then went into how Ronald Reagan borrowed the cash to fund these excursions, while Nixon killed the anti-war movement by discontinuing the draft in 1973 (via The Nation):

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With bipartisan support from establishment politicians, plutocrats, and pundits, Biden has now committed us to a four-front global crusade against Russia, China, Iran, and a continually shifting terrorist hit list.

None of these “enemies” threaten the survival or well-being of Americans. And the record of the United States in coddling dictators and torturers, violating international law, and invading other countries mocks the claim that we are fighting for universal human values.

The core conflict in each theater of war is over the United States’ control of other nations’ geographic alliances. US armed forces are present in 750 bases in 80 countries. Analysts on both the left and the right concluded long ago that this “superb” military is bloated, inefficient, and overpriced. The war machine budget just for 2024 is \$842 billion. Add the money for homeland security, the State Department, and the proposed budget for veterans’ benefits, and you reach a national security tab of over \$1.3 trillion. Lots of money for a military that hasn’t won a serious war since 1945.

[...]

So long as these forever wars were limited to distant places most Americans couldn’t find on a map, and Pentagon contracts were deftly allocated among congressional districts, it was all politically manageable. Protected by distance and dollars, Americans could root for Team America on their infotainment channels. Insulated from their constituents, politicians could play and profit from the “great game” of global geopolitics.

[...]

We have already reached the limits of our productive capacity supplying weapons to Ukraine. Ukraine has used up a 13-year supply of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and a five-year supply of Javelin anti-tank missiles. The US produces 14,000 155-mm artillery shells a month; Ukraine burns through that much in two days. Neither we nor our NATO allies can deliver what Ukraine needs for the “victory” we are promising it.

At the same time, Washington is openly preparing for a war with China over Taiwan. War game simulations have shown that we would run out of long-range naval missiles a week after the shooting started. The Air Force is short 1,650 pilots; the Navy says it needs several hundred new warships; and the Army plans to reduce its troop count by 10,000 because it can’t get enough recruits. Biden has pledged to make Taiwan a “porcupine” of missiles aimed at China. Yet we have a \$19 billion backlog in weapons previously promised to Taipei.

[...]

Today, our 15 percent share of global GDP is slightly less than China's. Two-thirds of the world's countries trade more with China than with the US. We run chronic trade and fiscal deficits. The dollar still dominates but has slipped from 70 to 60 percent of global reserves in the past 20 years. And our aggressive confiscation of a growing list of foreigners' assets is making investors nervous.

[...]

The dogs of war may be unleashed "over there," but they will feed here at home. And devour our future.

Recommended

A Lesson in Corporate Wokeness: The Disaster After Making Aunt Jemima a Pariah

Brad Slager

I was all for blowing stuff up after the 9/11 attacks. Radical Islamic terrorists murdered close to 3,000 Americans. Payback was warranted and righteous, but then the dominant neoconservative contingent in the Bush White House decided to put all the chips in the middle of the table, leveraging American military and economic power to export liberal democracy to a region of the world where this governing theory historically has no roots. Kill the terrorists, remove their allies from power, and then occupy and transform that society to be more like ours—the end game: perpetual peace under the banner of democracy, freedom, and the American way. The theory was with Israel being the Middle East's only functioning democracy, adding more would increase the likelihood of stability. Democratic peace theory was going to be injected with steroids. All it got us was a trillion-dollar-plus war in Afghanistan and Iraq, thousands of Americans killed, and our force trapped in nations rife with sectarian divisions.

The Bush presidency derailed the tenets of the now-defunct neoconservative Project for the New American Century. American armies cannot accelerate what should be the organic change among these societies. There will be some who don't want democracy. Washington must learn this, along with veering clear of the Left's hyper-interventionist policy of humanitarian intervention.

To boot, the powers that come to justify these conflicts can and have been used to chip away at American civil liberties. Democrats want to use notoriously unreliable no-fly lists to limit the sale of firearms. The logic is that anyone on these lists shouldn't be able to buy guns, which sounds excellent on camera, but the lack of transparency and due process has been an issue for years. There are six-year-olds on these lists. Need I say more?

It would be refreshing for an American president to put stock in the belief that it should be a constitutional responsibility to keep the nation out of war. These debts are accruing and will be called soon; we don't have the cash for it.

2.4.18 The Steele Dossier Boosters Lecture Fox on Truth? (2023-04-21 20:54)

It's a heady time for the badly disguised Democrats in the "objective media," seeing Fox News settle a fake news lawsuit with Dominion Voting Systems over wild and unproven claims of mass voting machine fraud. But a new book excerpt from "BuzzFeed Ben" Smith should remind everyone that the same "Truth matters" cheerleaders accepted wild and unproven claims about former President Donald Trump willy-nilly.

The Atlantic published Smith's proclamation that "After All That, I Would Still Publish the Dossier." This refers to his 2017 decision as the boss at BuzzFeed News to publish — in its entirety — the Steele Dossier, a burning rubbish pit of unproven gossip about Trump that was pushed by Hillary Clinton's lawyers through the "opposition research" firm Fusion GPS.

Smith now admits this ended up in a media cluster ... bungle. "The dossier's overreaching allegation of an immense and perverse conspiracy would, (author Barry Meier) predicted, 'ultimately benefit Donald Trump.' Six years after publication, I accept that conclusion."

So, the biggest regret on the Left isn't that it was false, but that it backfired and helped Trump. Smith says he did it in defense of the intelligence of the public, that they can figure this out. Isn't that better than a circle of journalists keeping it secret until wild charges can be proven?

This assertion is easy to refute. Just put Hillary Clinton or Joe Biden in the blank slot. If Breitbart published an unproven packet of sleaze that Biden hired Russian hookers to urinate on someone's bed, they would be denounced with the greatest vigor. Every "disinformation reporter" on the Left would be screaming that social media giants should be crushing these allegations into internet dust.

In fact, you see an analogue in the Hunter Biden laptop, including hookers. The Fox-hating media all avoided any attempt to confirm it and merely screamed “disinformation.”

You can also pause to think of the Dominion lawsuit when Smith recounts how BuzzFeed avoided any punishment in the legal system. “We faced a difficult series of lawsuits, but we won them all, in part because we’d maintained our journalistic distance. We argued, successfully, that we were not making these claims ourselves; we were making the ‘fair report’ of what amounted to a government document.”

It “amounted to a government document” because Fusion GPS shopped it with the FBI. Smith recounts how that firm assembled a clique of reliable liberal sources — The New York Times, The New Yorker, ABC News, CNN — at the Tabard Inn in Washington, D.C., where “Steele calmly shared his shocking suggestion that Trump had been compromised by the Russian government.”

In 2019, Robert Mueller’s report and then the Justice Department inspector general’s report eviscerated Steele’s gossip. Washington Post media critic Erik Wemple — who’s written many hard-charging critiques of Fox — devoted a pile of columns to revisiting the wreckage of the media’s dossier coverage.

When he went around asking the dossier’s most enthusiastic promoters for comment, MSNBC analyst Howard Fineman earnestly replied to Wemple: “For much of its public existence, the dossier got credibility from the very fact that the feds seemed to think it was a real road map. I came to accept it on that basis. I now regret citing the Steele (dossier) for any proposition.”

He was the exception. Wemple found a pile of refusals to comment, including Rachel Maddow, John Berman, Alisyn Camerota, Phil Mudd,

Natasha Bertrand and Jacob Weisberg. Manu Raju referred Wemple to CNN's public relations department, which issued this statement: "CNN stands by our reporting."

These are the people now fulminating that Fox didn't have to make a public apology.

2.4.19 NY Democrat to Testify Against 'Soft on Crime' Alvin Bragg, Praises Giuliani for Saving the City (2023-04-21 20:55)

A Democrat New York City councilman will testify against Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, saying the woke DA has contributed to the city's "lawlessness."

Bob Holden will appear at the GOP-led House Judiciary Committee, "Victims of Violent Crime in Manhattan," next week, pointing fingers at Bragg's soft-on-crime policies is driving chaos into the streets of the city.

"When Bragg came in, he issued that ridiculous edict that he was not going to prosecute smaller crimes," Holden said. "What do we have in New York City? We have lawlessness on the streets."

Holden, a long-time New Yorker, said he had never seen the city so dangerous as it is now, noting the timing of the rise in crime directly correlates to when Bragg took over as DA in January 2022.

"I have an issue with soft-on-crime politicians and DAs, so, you know, I offered. I said, 'Look, I have a view of this that's different from my Democratic, or most of my Democratic colleagues, so I would say that there are issues why New York City is the way it is,'" Holden said.

Holden recalled that on day one of Bragg being in office, red flags went up throughout the city. Then, on his third day in office, the woke DA ordered prosecutors not to give out prison sentences for several crimes and downgrade charges for crimes such as robberies and commercial burglaries.

He noted New York's crime issue improved when Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani was in office. Then, however, it rapidly declined through the years as the city's implementation of a sweeping bail reform law in 2020 took effect.

"I credit Rudy Giuliani as the mayor who saved New York... I lived through that. They don't like to hear it. But I lived through it," Holden said. "I remember the city turning around, and we had 17 straight years of decline in crime until the bail reform, and then you couple that with DAs like Bragg, and it's a bad, bad recipe there."

As a result, Bragg claims, police officers don't have the motive to arrest and implement law and order in the predominantly blue city.

The Republican committee also plans to have Madeline Brame, whose son was fatally stabbed; Harlem bodega clerk Jose Alba, who was once charged with murder over the death of someone who attacked him at work; and Jennifer Harrison, founder of Victims Rights NY to all testify against Bragg's pro-crime policies.

2.4.20 South Korea Knows the Korean War Isn't Over (2023-04-29 18:59)

As U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol meet in Washington their nations have cause to celebrate. Ranking economies by GDP, the U.S. (population 330 million) is No. 1 and South Korea (52 million) is No. 12 (possibly 10).

But behind the photo-ops aides are discussing North Korea's nuclear threats and communist China's regional and global threats.

Difficult fact: The Korean War remains unfinished business. When media claim Afghanistan was America's longest war, they ignore the frozen war on the Korean peninsula and the American troops still there, pulling guard duty.

The July 27, 1953, Korean Armistice Agreement established a ceasefire. Seventy years later there is no peace treaty.

Around 2.6 million human beings died during the war's most intense combat (June 1950-July 1953). One million South Korean civilians died (estimated). North Korea lost a million soldiers and civilians. The U.S. military lost 37,000 killed in action.

In November 1950, the Chinese Communist Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) invaded North Korea and attacked American units. By July 1953 the PLA had suffered an estimated 600,000 dead.

So, here's a fact relevant to 2023 and the Biden-Yoon meeting: At its height the Korean War was a war between the U.S. and communist China.

The PLA withdrew after the armistice. The U.S., however, didn't cut and run. The war didn't end. North Korea, backed by communist China and Russia, waged "gray zone war" — terror, firefights and infiltration in 1990s Pyongyang added threats of nuclear war.

We've a relic Cold War stand-off. Behind North Korea is an imperialist and expansionist communist China. The U.S. still stands with South Korea.

Celebration aside, is the U.S.-South Korea alliance secure?

Media report Biden wants to emphasize America's commitment to deterring North Korean nuclear attack.

That's good, but belated and, to my mind, another example of Biden attempting to avoid responsibility for making the world a more dangerous place than it was in January 2021. The Biden administration's Afghanistan withdrawal disaster damaged America's reputation for

reliability, strength and leadership in crisis. Globally deterrence took a hit.

In February I wrote a column discussing the possibility of South Korea and Japan acquiring nukes. They have the technology.

When Russia invaded Crimea in 2014 it violated an agreement guaranteeing Ukraine's territorial integrity, the Budapest Memorandum of 1994. In 1994 Ukraine had the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal. Ukraine traded its nuclear weapons for mutual security guarantees.

In January of this year, after North Korean drones penetrated South Korean territory, Yoon said South Korea may deploy tactical nuclear weapons "or possess its own nuclear capabilities" if North Korean threats intensify.

I am certain the Afghanistan debacle told Russia's Vladimir Putin that Biden's weak, feckless leadership meant he could launch an all-out invasion of Ukraine and suffer no serious consequences.

Remember, Biden urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to flee. That's a fact. Zelenskyy didn't cut and run. Ukrainians fought and are still fighting.

Deterrence in eastern Europe definitely failed on Biden's watch.

South Korea needs U.S. support. The U.S. needs allies and South Korea is a first-class ally with a world class economy, superb military forces and rock stars (K-pop rules Asia). South Korea is also a nation in arms. Its citizens are prepared to fight. Invaders will face organized, well-trained and supplied popular resistance forces. (I rate Finland, Israel and now Ukraine as other proven nations-in-arms.)

South Korea offers a lot to a larger coalition or alliance. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is an unofficial coalition of Japan, Australia, America and India. All four regard China as a "disruptive actor" (Japan's phrase) in the Indo-Pacific.

In March 2020, South Korea attended the first "Quad Plus" meeting, as did diplomats from New Zealand and Vietnam.

Very promising, but no matter the diplomatic arrangement, South Korea's first defense priority is eliminating North Korea's nukes.

A lesson in so-called forever war is deep background for this week's celebration of the seven-decade-long U.S.-South Korea bilateral alliance.

As U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol meet in Washington their nations have cause to celebrate. Ranking economies by GDP, the U.S. (population 330 million) is No. 1 and South Korea (52 million) is No. 12 (possibly 10).

But behind the photo-ops aides are discussing North Korea's nuclear threats and communist China's regional and global threats.

Difficult fact: The Korean War remains unfinished business. When media claim Afghanistan was America's longest war, they ignore the frozen war on the Korean peninsula and the

American troops still there, pulling guard duty.

The July 27, 1953, Korean Armistice Agreement established a ceasefire. Seventy years later there is no peace treaty.

Around 2.6 million human beings died during the war's most intense combat (June 1950-July 1953). One million South Korean civilians died (estimated). North Korea lost a million soldiers and civilians. The U.S. military lost 37,000 killed in action.

In November 1950, the Chinese Communist Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) invaded North Korea and attacked American units. By July 1953 the PLA had suffered an estimated 600,000 dead.

So, here's a fact relevant to 2023 and the Biden-Yoon meeting: At its height the Korean War was a war between the U.S. and communist China.

The PLA withdrew after the armistice. The U.S., however, didn't cut and run. The war didn't end. North Korea, backed by communist China and Russia, waged "gray zone war" — terror, firefights and infiltration in 1990s Pyongyang added threats of nuclear war.

We've a relic Cold War stand-off. Behind North Korea is an imperialist and expansionist communist China. The U.S. still stands with South Korea.

Celebration aside, is the U.S.-South Korea alliance secure?

Media report Biden wants to emphasize America's commitment to deterring North Korean nuclear attack.

That's good, but belated and, to my mind, another example of Biden attempting to avoid responsibility for making the world a more dangerous place than it was in January 2021. The Biden administration's Afghanistan withdrawal disaster damaged America's reputation for reliability, strength and leadership in crisis. Globally deterrence took a hit.

In February I wrote a column discussing the possibility of South Korea and Japan acquiring nukes. They have the technology.

When Russia invaded Crimea in 2014 it violated an agreement guaranteeing Ukraine's territorial integrity, the Budapest Memorandum of 1994. In 1994 Ukraine had the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal. Ukraine traded its nuclear weapons for mutual security guarantees.

In January of this year, after North Korean drones penetrated South Korean territory, Yoon said South Korea may deploy tactical nuclear weapons "or possess its own nuclear capabilities" if North Korean threats intensify.

I am certain the Afghanistan debacle told Russia's Vladimir Putin that Biden's weak, feckless leadership meant he could launch an all-out invasion of Ukraine and suffer no serious consequences.

Remember, Biden urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to flee. That's a fact. Zelenskyy didn't cut and run. Ukrainians fought and are still fighting.

Deterrence in eastern Europe definitely failed on Biden's watch.

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Rate this:

2.4.21 The New Baby-Killers (2023-04-29 19:00)

Extremists have got to learn to take half a loaf. Just like the cheap labor-demanding GOP donors, pro-lifers need to be told: You can't get everything you want. If Republicans give you this, they'll lose their jobs, and the people who'll replace them want you dead.

Unlike a lot of people complaining about the anti-abortion zealots, I am an anti-abortion zealot. That's why I'm begging them to stop pushing wildly unpopular ideas. These fanatics are going to get millions more babies killed when Democrats win supermajorities in both houses of Congress and immediately pass a federal law making abortion-on-demand the law of the land.

They're also going to get a lot more adults killed when those same Democratic supermajorities pass laws taking our guns, defunding the police and packing the court, among other great Democratic ideas.

We've been rolling our eyes at pro-choicers forever, telling them to calm down, that overturning Roe would just return the issue to the states. Blue states would make abortion legal until the kid turns 14. A few states, like Louisiana, would impose tough restrictions, but most states would come out in the middle — allowing abortions in the first trimester, plus parental notification laws, and exceptions for rape and incest.

Instead, the moment Dobbs was released, pro-life nuts rushed to the mics, saying, This is gonna be great! We're going to ban abortion from the moment of conception and prosecute the mothers for murder!

The Democratic Party has been using abortion to scare suburban women in every election cycle for 50 years. Now, Republicans are finally giving them something to be scared about.

In Michigan, the Republican gubernatorial nominee, Tudor Dixon, said she opposed abortion for 14-year-old girls who'd been raped because giving birth to her rapist's baby could be "healing."

Does the name Todd Akin mean anything to you? Anything at all? Richard Mourdock?

Dixon lost by 11 points.

Pennsylvania responded, Watch this! Doug Mastriano, Republican candidate for governor, called abortion the "number one" issue of his campaign and said he looked forward to signing a six-week abortion ban. In 2019, he'd called for criminally prosecuting women who got abortions and doctors who performed them.

Mastriano lost by 15 points, taking the Republican Senate candidate down with him.

If we don't bind and gag these pro-life militants, in about two more election cycles, we'll have no Republicans in office anywhere. Good luck saving babies then!

Of course, it's possible that there were other things voters didn't like about Dixon and Mastriano.

Ah, but we also have pure test cases. Since Dobbs, there have been a total of six statewide ballot initiatives exclusively about abortion. The pro-life side lost every single time. They lost in blue states, in purple states and in red states. They were not outspent. These were direct-to-the-people votes. The tiniest restriction on abortion failed — even wholly theoretical restrictions! Every expansion of abortion rights won.

Army of Todd Akins: I don't care! They're wrong! They're evil! What about the babies??? [Please give me a standing ovation now.]

In Montana, a proposal merely to require doctors to give life-saving treatment to babies born alive after a botched abortion lost 53 % to 47 %. Trump won Montana by 20 points in 2016 and 15 points in 2020.

In Kansas, pro-lifers wrote a ballot initiative that would have amended the constitution to clarify that it said nothing at all about abortion. The initiative placed no new restrictions on abortion, but simply moved the issue from the courts to the legislature.

It failed by 18 points, 59-41, losing in every congressional district in the state. Trump won Kansas by 20 points in 2016 and 15 points in 2020.

Kentucky voted on a similar initiative, proposing to amend the state constitution to say: "... nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."

That initiative lost 52-48. In 2016, Trump won Kentucky by a whopping 30 points, and in 2020 by 25 points.

In three other states, Michigan, Vermont and California, voters put a right to abortion in their state constitutions.

Six ballot initiatives expressly on abortion, and the pro-life side lost 'em all.

We've been waiting half a century to get Roe overruled so Americans could finally vote on the issue. Well, guess what? They've voted! In the privacy of the voting booth, the people have spoken, and what they've said is: We don't want the stupid and incompetent having any more babies.

The fanatics cite three Republican governors who won reelection after signing six-week abortion bans as proof that a certain miracle governor in Florida hasn't just nuked his own presidential chances by approving such a law. All three governors signed their six-week bans when Roe was still the law of the land. All three bans were tied up in litigation on Election Day.

But more important, in the entire country, only one incumbent governor lost in 2022 — pro-life, pro-choice, it didn't matter. Thirty-six governors up for reelection; 35 won.

The only flipped governorship was in Nevada, where the winning Republican, Joe Lombardo, said he opposed a national abortion ban. Luckily, abortion was a complete nonissue because state law already allows abortion up to 24 weeks and can only be changed by a vote of the people. (Lombardo also said there was no fraud in the 2020 election, for any Republicans who care about winning.)

But even in the face of a brutal 6-0 losing record, there are still pro-lifers who will say, I'm proud and I'd do it again! (Did you see my write-up in Catholic Insights magazine?)

This is our "DEFUND THE POLICE" faction — people whose ideological zealotry outruns their rationality.

Fine, be a showoff. Just understand, you're going to get a lot more babies killed. I hope that's worth your moral preening.

2.4.22 RFK Jr.: 'Every Totalitarian Regime in the History of Mankind' Has Sought 'Total Control' (2023-04-29 19:01)

"It's been the dream ambition of every totalitarian regime in the history of mankind to exert total control over every aspect of human behavior," Robert F. Kennedy Jr. explained in a recent sit-down interview.

The difference between other historical examples and the kind of WEF technocratic totalitarianism we face now, he explains, is the disparity in technological capacity to exert total social control.

This analysis is 100 % pure veritas.

RFK Jr. is in possession of an exceedingly rare combination of traits for a politician: deep

insight into how American politics work and an equally deep moral character to match.

He is the real deal, in my estimation. It doesn't matter at all to me that he's a nominal Democrat because he's unlike any other mainstream Democrat that I have seen in recent memory, except for perhaps Dennis Kucinich (driven out of the party for not going along with its warmongering and catering to Wall Street).

Roger Stone has recently floated a Trump-RFK ticket for the GOP nomination. While titillating, the problem with this proposition is the disparate positions between the two men on the COVID-19 so-called vaccine.

RFK Jr. has been outspoken since before the rollout of the shots in his criticism of the rushed trial process and the obvious collusion between Pfizer, Moderna, and the regulatory agencies tasked with overseeing them.

Trump, on the other hand, not only spearheaded Operation Warp speed, which delivered the shots to market in less than a year when the average testing period for new vaccines has always been 10-15 years; he also publicly bragged about his alleged accomplishment over and over and over, as late as last year, before he finally stopped talking about it altogether because of the political damage he was doing to himself.

Yes, the Deep State hates Trump because, unlike nearly every major political figure from either party, he is both beyond the control of the power structure and immensely popular with a large swathe of the electorate. He is therefore a potential asset to the populist movement.

However, Trump is not a visionary leader. He's mostly a narcissistic self-dealer with an extraordinary flair for guerrilla marketing. He's a showman above all with, ironically, better political instincts than most Swamp creatures who've spent their whole careers practicing their best impression of a likable, relatable real American straight from Main Street USA.

As Tucker Carlson noted, Trump is very good at destroying things and not so great at building them. He's a human wrecking ball, in short — perhaps what we needed in 2016 to break the corrupt corporate state duopoly, which he did admirably, but lacking in the kind of long-term strategic vision that would make a meaningful difference in American politics.

Related: [Just When Dem Debates Would Have Been Interesting, DNC Says There Will Be No Debates](#)

Assuming that bringing RFK Jr. onto the Trump 2024 ticket could actually be useful for shaping Trump's policy and personnel decision-making (which is sorely lacking given the kind of people like Jared Kushner he surrounded himself with the first go-round), RFK Jr. could do immensely beneficial things in his role as VP candidate.

Just close your eyes and imagine, for an indulgent moment, an RFK Jr. vs. Kamala Harris VP debate. It would be a bloodbath. On one hand, viewers would see a clearly principled man with an impressive depth of knowledge and, on the other, a vapid career climber who (allegedly) slept her way to the top of the Democrat Party and can barely spit out a sentence that doesn't sound like it was manufactured in some think tank focus group.

That alone could be enough to sway voters on the fence — even Democrat ones — to

vote the right way in 2024.

2.4.23 The Tucker Carlson Story Brings Out the Media Stupid (2023-04-29 19:04)

Everyone has a Tucker Carlson story, how they met him one time and how he was really cool, etc. It's true, he is mostly what you see. But that's not really what this is about, nor is it really about Tucker, though he will feature throughout. It's about media and just how horrible and, frankly stupid, it has become.

My Tucker story is fun and involved, it goes from meeting him at a party at the home of Christopher Hitchens and continues through being the first hire for the Daily Caller, long before it launched or was named that (there was talk of calling it "The Northwest Corner," which I successfully fought), through my wedding and up until today. The details are irrelevant and private, but the basics are not uncommon. His birthday is coming up, as is mine, and texts are always exchanged to commemorate each. This is not unique.

That's the thing about Tucker – having gotten to know a lot of "political famous" people, very few are anything like their public image. Tucker is almost exactly the same, though maybe a little shorter. He texts during commercial breaks, when there's news about you and it gets to him, he will get to you (he reached out as soon as he heard about my father passing, for example). And he doesn't rush you to shut up or stop, even when you should. He's just who he is, love it or hate it.

The media storm surrounding his leaving Fox News once again exposed all those jackals as the exact opposite – a narcissistic group of credentialed phonies who will never let the absence of information slow down their speculation.

I don't know why Tucker is no longer on Fox, and neither does anyone who's been all over television this week talking like they do. The only difference is I admit it.

I've been asked, as I suspect anyone tangentially connected to him has been asked a thousand times since Monday. I do not know. And it's not my business. I sent a text saying I hope he's ok, but he's not going to pick up the phone and pour his soul out to me or anyone else he isn't related to or hasn't known for decades, nor should he. He doesn't owe anyone a justification for his life and the events of it, no matter how public much of it has been.

So-called journalists, however, will simply take "information" from anyone to feed the rumor mill. I swear, if I told a reporter that he once told me he's a necrophiliac and he was fired for hanging around Grant's tomb a little too often, it would be "reported." Not only have the standards for what constitutes news fallen through the floor, the standards for what is able to be reported are completely gone.

The morning after the news broke I forced myself to watch Morning Joe. It's normally a vapid echo chamber, but this week set a new marker for intellectual voidism. There was no conspiracy theory too absurd for mention, nothing too dumb to be said.

On a good day, Mika Brzezinski is lucky that breathing is a reflex because otherwise she'd forget to do it. She and her second husband, Joe Scarborough (she's his third wife), had one of

the all-time dumbest exchanges in the history of television (not just cable news, but anything ever broadcast). They talked about the security footage from January 6th Speaker Kevin McCarthy gave to Carlson as though there was only one copy and it was on a series of VHS tapes.

"I think the question about the January 6 tapes is a really big one. What exactly happens to those? Do they stay in his possession?" Mika asked from her tax haven Florida mansion as if there was a shoebox full of Betamax tapes laying around somewhere.

"Kevin McCarthy needs to get the tapes back. And he needs to get lawyers to have documents signed that they're not going to be used anywhere else in the future, or any of its contents revealed," dumbass Joe added from the seat beside his pancake make-up covered wife with an oddly unmovable, smooth forehead.

They work in media, are they as unaware of digital as they appear to be of high definition? (We have to be grateful Mika is too old to have kids, the offspring of this much idiocy would surely bring about the end of life as we know it.)

This is just one example of the MOJO morons this week seemingly using the career moves of someone they hate as foreplay. Just one example...from one show...on one network - it's been a non-stop and is beyond pathetic, yet it is what news has become. Who needs the National Enquirer or the late Weekly World News when you've got MSNBC? Actually, we all could. At least they'd get a story right every once in a while, if only by accident. MSNBC doesn't have that issue.

2.4.24 Almost a Year After Dobbs Leak, Justice Alito Shares His Thoughts (2023-04-29 19:10)

This piece has been updated to include a statement from Curt Levey, a constitutional law attorney and the president of the Committee for Justice.

On May 2, 2022, someone leaked the draft opinion of the Dobbs v. Jackson decision which indicated the U.S. Supreme Court was going to overturn Roe v. Wade. While the official opinion, authored by Justice Samuel Alito, wasn't handed down until June 24, 2022, plenty of hysterical backlash against conservative justices took place before then. Now, almost a year later, Justice Alito has shared his thoughts with reporters from the Wall Street Journal, in a piece aptly titled "Justice Samuel Alito: 'This Made Us Targets of Assassination.'"

This isn't mere hyperbole. Someone wanted to assassinate Justice Brett Kavanaugh. It was also later revealed that Nicholas Roske, who pled not guilty to federal charges, wanted to potentially target two other conservative justices.

"Those of us who were thought to be in the majority, thought to have approved my draft opinion, were really targets of assassination," Alito shared "It was rational for people to believe that they might be able to stop the decision in Dobbs by killing one of us."

Alito also denounced the idea that it was a conservative who leaked the draft. "That's infuriating to me," he said about that theory. "Look, this made us targets of assassination. Would I do that to myself? Would the five of us have done that to ourselves? It's quite

implausible," Alito stressed.

Professor Jonathan Turley named NPR's Nina Totenberg as one of those who offered it was a conservative who leaked the draft. This is the same Totenberg who tried to stir up debunked controversy on masks between Justices Neil Gorsuch and Sonia Sotomayor.

...Alito says that the person was clearly intending to stop the release of the opinion. If true, that contradicts claims of some like NPR's Totenberg that the leaker likely was a conservative. <https://t.co/NUn6680LYD>

— Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) April 28, 2023

Alito thinks he knows who did leak it. While he agrees there wasn't sufficient evidence to make a public accusation, as was the case back in January, Alito shared "I personally have a pretty good idea who is responsible, but that's different from the level of proof that is needed to name somebody."

He also believes someone leaked the draft as "a part of an effort to prevent the Dobbs draft... from becoming the decision of the court," adding "that's how it was used for those six weeks by people on the outside—as part of the campaign to try to intimidate the court."

There's another reason as to why the theory the leaker is a conservative is so ridiculous.

"Of course, if the likely leaker were a conservative, their name would almost surely have been reported by the media by now. Alito tells us he is nonetheless certain the leak was intended to prevent the Dobbs draft from being issued," Curt Levey a constitutional law attorney and the president of the Committee for Justice, pointed out to Townhall. "Common sense tells us he is right. After all, only someone on the Left would have had the requisite anger about the Dobbs decision to do something so damaging to the Court. Justice Alito is right to be infuriated at progressives who claim the leak came from a conservative—all the more so in light of his observation that the leaker knew they might be able to stop the Dobbs decision by motivating someone to kill one of the five justices in the majority."

While Alito is in safer hands now, that doesn't mean he didn't suffer before:

[Alito] adds that "I don't feel physically unsafe, because we now have a lot of protection." He is "driven around in basically a tank, and I'm not really supposed to go anywhere by myself without the tank and my members of the police force." Deputy U.S. marshals guard the justices' homes 24/7. (The U.S. Marshals Service, a bureau of the Justice Department, is distinct from the marshal of the court, who reports to the justices and oversees the Supreme Court Police.)

A federal law called Section 1507 makes it a crime to picket or parade "in or near" a federal judge's residence "with the intent of influencing" him "in the discharge of his duty." During a hearing last month, Attorney General Merrick Garland told Sen. Mike Lee (R., Utah) that the marshals have "full authority to arrest" violators of Section 1507. But according to training slides obtained by Sen. Katie Britt (R., Ala.), deputies on the justices' residential details are told to enforce the law only as "a last resort to prevent physical harm to the Justices and/or their families."

Although the Supreme Court has held that the Constitution allows for reasonable restrictions on the time, place and manner of speech, the training slides indicate that the Justice Department believes it is unconstitutional to enforce Section 1507 absent "criminal threats and intimidation." Regular protests outside the justices' homes continue.

Levey called the lengths Alito has to go through a "shame." He also warned it was "a result, in part, of the signal sent by Attorney General Garland's refusal to enforce the federal statute that makes it a crime to protest near a federal judge's home with the intent of influencing his or her decisions."

Attorney General Merrick Garland certainly deserves criticism, as highlighted above. Beyond that, then White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said they "encourage" protests, so long as they were peaceful, and was more so concerned about the end of Roe. Her successor, Karine Jean-Pierre, similarly wouldn't denounce protestors seeking to interrupt Justice Kavanaugh at dinner.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who as minority leader threatened Justices Kavanaugh and Gorsuch in 2020 not to vote a certain way in an abortion case, laughed off the protests since he himself has experienced them.

Alito had to leave his home for a time due to the protests. The opening of this Wall Street Journal piece also calls to mind how he had to give remarks remotely for an event:

Justice Samuel Alito was supposed to speak to law students at George Mason University in Arlington, Va., but when they showed up, he wasn't there. "That Alito was speaking via closed circuit from a room at the Supreme Court seven miles away, rather than in person, was a sign these are not normal times," the Washington Post reported. The Post didn't explain what made the "times" abnormal.

It wasn't a lingering fear of Covid-19. In a mid-April interview in his chambers, Justice Alito fills us in on the May 12, 2022, event: "Our police conferred with the George Mason Police and the Arlington Police and they said, 'It's not a good idea. He shouldn't come here. . . . The security problems will be severe.' So I ended up giving the speech by Zoom," he says. "Still, there were so many protesters and they were so loud that you could hear them."

Even still, the Court faces doubt and scrutiny as an institution, but also when it comes to individual members.

Democrats bought into debunked claims about Alito and the Hobby Lobby case from 2014. Justices Thomas and Gorsuch have been the subject of criticized reports about their financial disclosures.

Chairman Dick Durbin (D-IL) of the Senate Judiciary Committee invited Chief Justice John Roberts to appear before the committee, who denied the unusual request. While Durbin knew better than to subpoena Roberts, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), who sits on the committee has raised subpoenas as an option and even suggested the House Judiciary Committee has a "responsibility" to impeach Justice Thomas.

Alito spoke in-depth to the ways in which Democrats have attacked the Court:

But as the court has grown more conservative in recent years, the left has stepped up the attacks on the court's "legitimacy," including character assassination of individual justices, with little objection from mainstream Democrats and plenty of help from the media.

Justice Alito says "this type of concerted attack on the court and on individual justices" is "new during my lifetime. . . . We are being hammered daily, and I think quite unfairly in a lot of instances. And nobody, practically nobody, is defending us. The idea has always been that judges are not supposed to respond to criticisms, but if the courts are being unfairly attacked, the organized bar will come to their defense." Instead, "if anything, they've participated to some degree in these attacks."

Judges are in a double bind: If they don't respond, the attacks stand. If they do, they diminish the mystique on which judicial authority depends. Justice Alito demurs when we ask about "ethics" accusations against Justice Clarence Thomas from partisan media: "I'll stay away from that." But he does address a less-recent drama: "After Justice Kavanaugh was accused of being a rapist during his Senate confirmation hearings, he made an impassioned speech, made an impassioned scene, and he was criticized because it was supposedly not judicious, not the proper behavior for a judge to speak in those terms. I don't know—if somebody calls you a rapist?"

Those who throw the mud then disparage the justices for being dirty. "We're being bombarded with this," Justice Alito says, "and then those who are attacking us say, 'Look how unpopular they are. Look how low their approval rating has sunk.' Well, yeah, what do you expect when you're—day in and day out, 'They're illegitimate. They're engaging in all sorts of unethical conduct. They're doing this, they're doing that'?"

It "undermines confidence in the government," Justice Alito says. "It's one thing to say the court is wrong; it's another thing to say it's an illegitimate institution. You could say the same thing about Congress and the president. . . . When you say that they're illegitimate, any of the three branches of government, you're really striking at something that's essential to self-government."

He also spoke to the long-term consequences of such attacks as well:

The court's attackers clearly seek to poison the well, but to what end? They sometimes proclaim unrealistic goals such as pressuring a disfavored justice to retire or removing him from office through impeachment. Sometimes they speak of packing or "expanding" the court—enacting legislation to create new seats that would immediately be filled by a Democratic president and Senate.

That might become possible if the Democrats have a good election in 2024, although Franklin D. Roosevelt failed in 1937 with enormous majorities, and Joe Biden, with narrow ones in 2021, punted the idea to a committee. It also would open the door to retaliatory packing by a future Republican president and Congress. Justice Alito finds the whole notion appalling: "To change the size of the court just because you want to change the result in cases—that would destroy it. You want to talk about our legitimacy? That would destroy the perception that we're anything other than a political body."

Levey also stressed that the damage caused was "no accident" and that "damaging the Court's legitimacy was one of the purposes of the leak, just like it is the aim of the withering

attacks on the conservative justices, especially when—as Alito notes—the mainstream media and even the organized bar cheers those attacks on."

"Justice Alito" and "Samuel Alito" are trending on Twitter as people react to such revelations, which our friends at Twitchy also picked up on.

2.4.25 The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) plans to place special gun-carrying agents in all 50 U.S. states (2023-04-29 19:11)

According to the agency's website, the Criminal Investigation (CI) division is looking for IRS employees authorized by law to carry and use firearms, which are responsible for investigating financial crimes, money laundering, tax-related identity theft, and terrorist financing efforts.

The "major duties" listed for the position say that agents will be trained to "follow the money" and prosecute any financial crimes.

"No matter what the source, all income earned, both legal and illegal, has the potential of becoming involved in crimes which fall within the investigative jurisdiction of the IRS Criminal Investigation. Because of the expertise required to conduct these complex financial investigations, IRS Special Agents are considered the premier financial investigators for the Federal government," the website reads.

Additionally, agents must carry a gun and be prepared to protect themselves from physical attacks without any warning. The description for the role also cautions that the agent may face life-threatening situations forcing them to use a firearm.

Special agents with the CI division must also be able to pass pre-employment medical and tax exams and be "willing and able to participate in arrests, execution of search warrants, and other dangerous assignments."

The website indicates that would-be agents must remain physically fit to respond to life-threatening situations while on the clock.

The job posting lists 360 vacancies in 249 locations nationwide — at least one in each state.

The IRS faced heavy criticism last year when after Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which included \$80 billion in increased funding for the IRS for over a decade during a recession at a time when inflation was well over nine percent. The agency also announced that it would add at least 87,000 agents to the force to harass hard-working Americans.

2.5 May

2.5.1 Roll the Tape: Democrats Get a Reminder About Their Bigotry Toward Clarence Thomas (2023-05-06 11:18)

After weeks of relentless attacks and false accusations of ethics violations from their friends in the media, Democrats convened a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Tuesday to further attack and undermine the Supreme Court.

But while Democratic Senators like Dick Durbin and Sheldon Whitehouse (who has a pile of his own ethics issues to sift through) continually attacked Justice Clarence Thomas over trips he has taken over the years with a wealthy friend, Republican Senators Ted Cruz, Mike Lee, John Kennedy and others weren't letting it stand.

Senator Cruz took a trip down memory lane to expose the left's long held bigotry toward Justice Thomas.

The attacks on Justice Clarence Thomas by Democrats and the corporate media reveal a glaring double standard.

They're vilifying him for traveling with a close friend.

Well if that's the standard, just about every Supreme Court Justice has done so and done so in much greater... pic.twitter.com/EnvTpW6Qtq
— Senator Ted Cruz (@SenTedCruz) May 3, 2023

Senator Mike Lee did the same and issued a warning.

When this chapter of American history is written, those who attack Justice Thomas today will be justly dismissed as intolerant bigots. To my liberal friends I sincerely ask: do you really want to join that club? <https://t.co/ya4W6grodb>
— Mike Lee (@BasedMikeLee) May 3, 2023

Senator Kennedy called out Democrats for essentially accusing conservative Supreme Court Justices of taking bribes and explained why they continue to relentlessly attack the Court's legitimacy.

Senator John Kennedy:

"Today's hearing is an excuse to sling more mud at an institution some Democrats don't like because they CAN'T CONTROL IT!"

 pic.twitter.com/I58fAkOJJj
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) May 2, 2023

Senator John Kennedy perfectly sums up Democrat attacks on the legitimacy of the Supreme Court:

"My democratic colleagues should fill out a hurt feelings report and move on, for the sake of the Constitution!" pic.twitter.com/daavj5BrkP
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) May 2, 2023

Meanwhile, if Senate Democrats want to talk about ethics reform, they're going to have a problem...with themselves.

Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee are demanding strict oversight for the Supreme Court, but those same lawmakers don't have the ethical high ground on which they pretend to stand — far from it, in fact.

DEEP DIVE: <https://t.co/uhuDbfIYVx>
— Spencer Brown (@itsSpencerBrown) May 2, 2023
Rate this:

2.5.2 Sixty Years Ago, Hollywood Knew What a Woman Was (2023-05-06 11:19)

Have you ever seen the TV show "The Beverly Hillbillies"? It was popular in the 1960s, so you young whippersnappers would have to have caught it on Nickelodeon or some such network. But us old geezers grew up with it, and most of us thought it was a hoot. Maybe I was naïve at the time, but I never figured Hollywood was slamming southern hillbillies, I thought they were trying to make people laugh and earn a buck. I may have been right back then, but who knows?

Anyway, the show. Old Jed Clampett was a "poor mountaineer, barely kept his family fed. Then one day, he was shootin' at some food, and up from the ground come a'bubblin' crude. Oil, that is. Black gold. Texas tea."

"Well, the first thing you know, old Jed's a millionaire. The kinfolks said, 'Jed, move away from there!' Said Californy is the place you oughta' be, so they loaded up the truck and they moved to Beverly. Hills, that is. Swimming pools. Movie stars."

Those are the words from the title song to the show. You old timers remember that, don't you...brings back memories, I'm sure.

The show was hilarious, the exploits of some backwoods hillbillies among the hoity-toity of Beverly Hills. But Hollywood never expected the world would change, and that some other old hillbilly (me!) would catch their unwoke, politically incorrect foibles.

But I did.

Jed had a daughter, Elly May, who was lovely to behold indeed (maybe late teens). Elly May grew up in those southern hills a tomboy of tomboys. But now, she was almost "grewed" up. And, after watchin' Elly whup her cousin Jethro again, Jed decided it was time to have a heart-to-heart talk with his blossoming young daughter:

Jed: Elly May, you're gettin' too big to wrastle with boys.

Elly May: I ain't as big as Jethro.

Jed: I don't mean big that way, I mean grewed up. You're a young lady now. You gotta start mindin' your manners and fixin' yourself up real nice and wearin' dresses.

Elly May: Pa, folks would call me a sissy.

Jed: Ain't sissy for girls to act like girls. You see, Elly, I raised you like a boy, and I was wrong to do it. I reckon every man would like to have a son and you was my only young'un. And when your ma passed away, I just decided to turn you into a boy. By the time Granny come to help out, you was too wild to tame. By thunder, you could outrun, outclimb, outfight, and outshoot every boy in them hills.

Elly May (smiling): I still can, Pa.

Jed: Yeah, but it ain't fittin'. It ain't right for folks to go against nature. Now, look at ol' Duke [the family dog] there. Reckon we could turn him into a cat?

Elly May: Course not.

Jed: That's right. 'Cause nature made him into a dog. Just the same way nature made you into a girl. Lately, she's gettin' more and more positive about it....

Oooops...

A VERY unwoke talk with his blossoming daughter. (From the 2nd episode, "Getting Settled," "The Beverly Hillbillies," 1963).

A question: Who has changed, Hollywood or women?

Sixty years ago, even Hollywood thought it knew the difference between a man and a woman (not to mention a dog and a cat). But how dare Jed Clampett tell his daughter she can't be a boy?

Of course, nowadays Jed would say something like this: "Elly, you are obviously not a woman because you can outrun, outshoot, etc. every boy in them southern hills. You aren't a 'tomboy,' you are a boy. So, we need to change your name to Billy Bob, and get you down to the hospital right quick so they can whack those parts of you that, um, nature falsely gave you to make you look like a woman..."

NOW we get the idea. But it only works for humans.

"Duke, do you want to be a cat? If you want to be a cat, you can be a cat." What if a German Shepherd male wants to become a female Chihuahua? Or a cat? Why can't he do that? Transpets are real, you know.

Now, that's ridiculous, our biologist says, dogs and cats are two different species, and men and woman—um, xe and xer—are humans. Oh, right. Human animals can become other kinds of human animals, but dog animals can't become other kinds of dog animals. Or animal animals. Dumb hillbillies.

Umm, how many kinds of humans are there now? Have they finished counting yet? Can I be whichever one I want to be?

Nature is obviously dumber than our modern, woke biologist. Lately, nature had become “more and more positive” about Elly bein’ a woman. Ah, what does nature know compared to the modern woke “scientist.” And Supreme Court justice. Nature has only been around forever.

Our Supreme Court justice isn’t a biologist, so she doesn’t know what a woman is. I wonder if she thinks she might be a man. Folks, I’m not a vet, but I know what a dog is. I’m not a botanist, but I know what a tree is. I’m not a bull, but I know what a cow is.

I’m not a psychiatrist, either, but I know what an idiot is, too.

Well, Jed moved to the right place, that’s for sure. California is now a “sanctuary state” for such, um, organisms. Elly May... Billy Bob...should feel right at home.

Dumb Hollywood. Thinking that a woman is a woman. And that by nature.

Has America gone in a more intelligent, scientific, moral direction the last 60 years?

2.5.3 Almost a Year After Dobbs Leak, Justice Alito Shares His Thoughts (2023-05-06 11:20)

This piece has been updated to include a statement from Curt Levey, a constitutional law attorney and the president of the Committee for Justice.

On May 2, 2022, someone leaked the draft opinion of the Dobbs v. Jackson decision which indicated the U.S. Supreme Court was going to overturn Roe v. Wade. While the official opinion, authored by Justice Samuel Alito, wasn’t handed down until June 24, 2022, plenty of hysterical backlash against conservative justices took place before then. Now, almost a year later, Justice Alito has shared his thoughts with reporters from the Wall Street Journal, in a piece aptly titled “Justice Samuel Alito: ‘This Made Us Targets of Assassination.’”

This isn’t mere hyperbole. Someone wanted to assassinate Justice Brett Kavanaugh. It was also later revealed that Nicholas Roske, who pled not guilty to federal charges, wanted to potentially target two other conservative justices.

“Those of us who were thought to be in the majority, thought to have approved my draft opinion, were really targets of assassination,” Alito shared “It was rational for people to believe that they might be able to stop the decision in Dobbs by killing one of us.”

Alito also denounced the idea that it was a conservative who leaked the draft. “That’s infuriating to me,” he said about that theory. “Look, this made us targets of assassination. Would I do that to myself? Would the five of us have done that to ourselves? It’s quite implausible,” Alito stressed.

Professor Jonathan Turley named NPR’s Nina Totenberg as one of those who offered it was a conservative who leaked the draft. This is the same Totenberg who tried to stir up

debunked controversy on masks between Justices Neil Gorsuch and Sonia Sotomayor.

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...Alito says that the person was clearly intending to stop the release of the opinion. If true, that contradicts claims of some like NPR's Totenberg that the leaker likely was a conservative. <https://t.co/NUn6680LYD>

— Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) April 28, 2023

Alito thinks he knows who did leak it. While he agrees there wasn't sufficient evidence to make a public accusation, as was the case back in January, Alito shared "I personally have a pretty good idea who is responsible, but that's different from the level of proof that is needed to name somebody."

He also believes someone leaked the draft as "a part of an effort to prevent the Dobbs draft... from becoming the decision of the court," adding "that's how it was used for those six weeks by people on the outside—as part of the campaign to try to intimidate the court."

There's another reason as to why the theory the leaker is a conservative is so ridiculous.

"Of course, if the likely leaker were a conservative, their name would almost surely have been reported by the media by now. Alito tells us he is nonetheless certain the leak was intended to prevent the Dobbs draft from being issued," Curt Levey a constitutional law attorney and the president of the Committee for Justice, pointed out to Townhall. "Common sense tells us he is right. After all, only someone on the Left would have had the requisite anger about the Dobbs decision to do something so damaging to the Court. Justice Alito is right to be infuriated at progressives who claim the leak came from a conservative—all the more so in light of his observation that the leaker knew they might be able to stop the Dobbs decision by motivating someone to kill one of the five justices in the majority."

While Alito is in safer hands now, that doesn't mean he didn't suffer before:

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[Alito] adds that "I don't feel physically unsafe, because we now have a lot of protection." He is "driven around in basically a tank, and I'm not really supposed to go anywhere by myself without the tank and my members of the police force." Deputy U.S. marshals guard the justices' homes 24/7. (The U.S. Marshals Service, a bureau of the Justice Department, is distinct from the marshal of the court, who reports to the justices and oversees the Supreme Court Police.)

A federal law called Section 1507 makes it a crime to picket or parade "in or near" a federal judge's residence "with the intent of influencing" him "in the discharge of his duty." During a hearing last month, Attorney General Merrick Garland told Sen. Mike Lee (R., Utah) that the marshals have "full authority to arrest" violators of Section 1507. But according to training slides obtained by Sen. Katie Britt (R., Ala.), deputies on the justices' residential

details are told to enforce the law only as “a last resort to prevent physical harm to the Justices and/or their families.”

Although the Supreme Court has held that the Constitution allows for reasonable restrictions on the time, place and manner of speech, the training slides indicate that the Justice Department believes it is unconstitutional to enforce Section 1507 absent “criminal threats and intimidation.” Regular protests outside the justices’ homes continue.

Levey called the lengths Alito has to go through a “shame.” He also warned it was “a result, in part, of the signal sent by Attorney General Garland’s refusal to enforce the federal statute that makes it a crime to protest near a federal judge’s home with the intent of influencing his or her decisions.”

Attorney General Merrick Garland certainly deserves criticism, as highlighted above. Beyond that, then White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said they “encourage” protests, so long as they were peaceful, and was more so concerned about the end of Roe. Her successor, Karine Jean-Pierre, similarly wouldn’t denounce protestors seeking to interrupt Justice Kavanaugh at dinner.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who as minority leader threatened Justices Kavanaugh and Gorsuch in 2020 not to vote a certain way in an abortion case, laughed off the protests since he himself has experienced them.

Alito had to leave his home for a time due to the protests. The opening of this Wall Street Journal piece also calls to mind how he had to give remarks remotely for an event:

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Justice Samuel Alito was supposed to speak to law students at George Mason University in Arlington, Va., but when they showed up, he wasn’t there. “That Alito was speaking via closed circuit from a room at the Supreme Court seven miles away, rather than in person, was a sign these are not normal times,” the Washington Post reported. The Post didn’t explain what made the “times” abnormal.

It wasn’t a lingering fear of Covid-19. In a mid-April interview in his chambers, Justice Alito fills us in on the May 12, 2022, event: “Our police conferred with the George Mason Police and the Arlington Police and they said, ‘It’s not a good idea. He shouldn’t come here. . . . The security problems will be severe.’ So I ended up giving the speech by Zoom,” he says. “Still, there were so many protesters and they were so loud that you could hear them.”

Even still, the Court faces doubt and scrutiny as an institution, but also when it comes to individual members.

Democrats bought into debunked claims about Alito and the Hobby Lobby case from 2014. Justices Thomas and Gorsuch have been the subject of criticized reports about their financial disclosures.

Chairman Dick Durbin (D-IL) of the Senate Judiciary Committee invited Chief Justice John Roberts to appear before the committee, who denied the unusual request. While Durbin knew

better than to subpoena Roberts, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), who sits on the committee has raised subpoenas as an option and even suggested the House Judiciary Committee has a “responsibility” to impeach Justice Thomas.

Alito spoke in-depth to the ways in which Democrats have attacked the Court:

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But as the court has grown more conservative in recent years, the left has stepped up the attacks on the court’s “legitimacy,” including character assassination of individual justices, with little objection from mainstream Democrats and plenty of help from the media.

Justice Alito says “this type of concerted attack on the court and on individual justices” is “new during my lifetime. . . . We are being hammered daily, and I think quite unfairly in a lot of instances. And nobody, practically nobody, is defending us. The idea has always been that judges are not supposed to respond to criticisms, but if the courts are being unfairly attacked, the organized bar will come to their defense.” Instead, “if anything, they’ve participated to some degree in these attacks.”

Judges are in a double bind: If they don’t respond, the attacks stand. If they do, they diminish the mystique on which judicial authority depends. Justice Alito demurs when we ask about “ethics” accusations against Justice Clarence Thomas from partisan media: “I’ll stay away from that.” But he does address a less-recent drama: “After Justice Kavanaugh was accused of being a rapist during his Senate confirmation hearings, he made an impassioned speech, made an impassioned scene, and he was criticized because it was supposedly not judicious, not the proper behavior for a judge to speak in those terms. I don’t know—if somebody calls you a rapist?”

Those who throw the mud then disparage the justices for being dirty. “We’re being bombarded with this,” Justice Alito says, “and then those who are attacking us say, ‘Look how unpopular they are. Look how low their approval rating has sunk.’ Well, yeah, what do you expect when you’re—day in and day out, ‘They’re illegitimate. They’re engaging in all sorts of unethical conduct. They’re doing this, they’re doing that?’”

It “undermines confidence in the government,” Justice Alito says. “It’s one thing to say the court is wrong; it’s another thing to say it’s an illegitimate institution. You could say the same thing about Congress and the president. . . . When you say that they’re illegitimate, any of the three branches of government, you’re really striking at something that’s essential to self-government.”

He also spoke to the long-term consequences of such attacks as well:

The court’s attackers clearly seek to poison the well, but to what end? They sometimes

proclaim unrealistic goals such as pressuring a disfavored justice to retire or removing him from office through impeachment. Sometimes they speak of packing or “expanding” the court—enacting legislation to create new seats that would immediately be filled by a Democratic president and Senate.

That might become possible if the Democrats have a good election in 2024, although Franklin D. Roosevelt failed in 1937 with enormous majorities, and Joe Biden, with narrow ones in 2021, punted the idea to a committee. It also would open the door to retaliatory packing by a future Republican president and Congress. Justice Alito finds the whole notion appalling: “To change the size of the court just because you want to change the result in cases—that would destroy it. You want to talk about our legitimacy? That would destroy the perception that we’re anything other than a political body.”

Levey also stressed that the damage caused was “no accident” and that “damaging the Court’s legitimacy was one of the purposes of the leak, just like it is the aim of the withering attacks on the conservative justices, especially when—as Alito notes—the mainstream media and even the organized bar cheers those attacks on.”

“Justice Alito” and “Samuel Alito” are trending on Twitter as people react to such revelations, which our friends at Twitchy also picked up on.

2.5.4 The Left Is Chipping Away at American Ethos (2023-05-06 11:23)

the American ethos was further eroded.

A new Biden administration rule, which inappropriately tinkers with the housing market, was implemented to punish good creditors on behalf of the financially irresponsible. The rule, which comes from the Federal Housing Finance Agency, forces individuals with good credit to pay higher fees and subsidize those with poor credit. In other words, the people who paid their bills on time are literally paying for those who do not.

2.5.5 The Truth About the Border Crisis (2023-05-10 09:45)

If you were to ask President Joe Biden, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, or White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, they’d tell you America has no border crisis, the border is “closed” to illegal immigrants, and things are under “operational control.”

To Americans living along the U.S.-Mexico border, in cities where the Biden administration has flown in illegal immigrants under cover of night, and really anyone with eyes, however, it’s clear that one of Biden’s worst crises has had devastating consequences. And things are

only going to get worse this week when Title 42 expires on Thursday night.

The Biden administration, of course, has relied on its allies in the mainstream media to parrot their denials of any issues at the border, but Townhall hasn't bought the president's lies and instead has reported the ugly and often terrifying truth of Biden's border policies.

Reporting from both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border — in locations that President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have refused to go — Townhall has shown what's really happening, not the sanitized and polished version of events the White House hopes Americans will accept.

Starting the week President Biden took the oath of office in January 2021, Townhall's Julio Rosas has been reporting from the border as the administration began dismantling the border security plans and policies implemented under former President Donald Trump.

Less than one month into office, Townhall reported how local authorities in border states, such as Arizona's Pinal County, were warning that Biden's policies were creating an "emerging border crisis." While Biden continued undermining border security, Townhall was embedded with officials experiencing an increase in human and drug smuggling activity as it spread farther into the United States. By February 8, 2021, it was clear: Joe Biden's immigration and border crisis was just beginning.

Townhall reported on Biden's border crisis COVID hypocrisy that saw illegal immigrants get exempted from pandemic protocols for testing and vaccines and other restrictions, setting off public health alarms along the border as the number of illegal immigrants surged and local health facilities grew overwhelmed while COVID and other diseases spread like wildfire through holding facilities.

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Exclusive: I obtained videos from this month showing the overcrowding at a Border Patrol holding facility in the Yuma Sector as the area continues to see large groups illegally cross into the US.

Full story -> [1]<https://t.co/FU2aGXwPYh> pic.twitter.com/hFx2A6UrEn

— Julio Rosas (@Julio_Rosas11) December 20, 2021

By mid-February, Townhall warned of Biden’s plan to begin releasing hundreds of illegal immigrants per day into San Diego, El Paso, and Brownsville. As Biden continued to implement incentives for illegal immigrants to cross the border, Townhall traveled south of the border to talk to those trying to enter the United States. They made it clear: Biden’s policies were their impetus for illegally crossing into the U.S.

Even as federal agencies such as Customs and Border Protection warned President Biden at the end of February 2021 that his policies would lead to more than 10,000 unaccompanied minors illegally entering the United States, the administration refused to remedy its dangerous policies.

By March 2021, Townhall reported one of many disastrous milestones: more than 100,000 illegal immigrants had been apprehended during Biden’s first full month in office. Still, administration officials told Americans that “the border is not open.” A shameless Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas even defiantly declared that the U.S.-Mexico border was “secure.”

Again on the ground along the border, Julio reported on Biden's reopening of detention facilities to hold a surging number of illegal immigrant children and the administration's decision to ban him from observing and reporting on the conditions inside. The Biden administration could see that the border crisis was spiraling out of control just months into its tenure, and it wanted to do everything possible to ensure only its approved (and false) narrative was available to the American people.

Townhall, however, did not stop covering the crisis or its devastating effects. Julio continued amplifying warnings of the "incredible strain" Biden's abandonment of border security had created for federal agents who risk their lives to secure a border their president no longer cared about.

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Exclusive: Assignment logs for Border Patrol's Yuma Station I obtained confirm few agents are actually patrolling the border. Most are processing or transporting.

"Border Patrol no longer does border enforcement. It does border enrollment." [2] <https://t.co/P5Axxv7ESUk>

— Julio Rosas (@Julio_Rosas11) December 15, 2021

Even as the administration fought to suppress stories, access, and the reality unfolding along the U.S.-Mexico border, Townhall kept telling the truth and giving our readers the unvarnished reality of an international border that had been turned over to violent cartels.

While the Biden administration continued its head-in-the-sand posture toward the border crisis, Townhall introduced its readers to "gotaways" in April 2021, illegal immigrants who are seen or detected but are not apprehended when they unlawfully enter the United States.

Even as the number of illegal immigrants continued to surge, month after month, due to Biden policies, his administration reduced the number of deportations carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to an all-time low. Meanwhile, Townhall warned that illegal immigrants released into the United States were failing to check in with ICE, and there was little effort by the Biden administration to track down a growing number of vanishing illegal immigrants.

Townhall continued reporting at the increasingly overwhelmed U.S.-Mexico border while Biden backed himself into a corner by claiming it was “closed” to illegal immigration. Each story Julio filed from the border was a direct refutation of Biden and his administration’s claims.

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Past midnight in Roma, TX right by the Rio Grande, smugglers brought over people into the United States from Mexico. No law enforcement on the riverbank, they were staged further inland. pic.twitter.com/19rfQiVt3d

— Julio Rosas (@Julio_Rosas11) June 29, 2021

Deadly drugs surged across the unsecured border in record numbers, and even some Democrats in Congress criticized the president and vice president for refusing to even visit the border as the White House’s attempts to keep the border crisis and its consequences quiet fell apart, due in part to Julio’s tireless reporting. Even when Harris finally visited Texas, she didn’t see the border and the very real crisis in order to maintain her denials.

Harris and Biden continuously demonstrated little concern for the safety of Americans along the border, the federal agents who risk their lives trying to accomplish their increasingly impossible task or even

the lives of illegal immigrants they claim to care about.

When the Biden administration tried to smear border agents with what was clearly a concocted left-wing narrative about illegal immigrants being whipped by mounted agents, Townhall was again on the ground in Del Rio to report the truth.

From the “whipgate” hoax to the number of dangerous sex offenders, previously deported felons, violent cartel members, and individuals on terror watch lists illegally entering the country and slipping away from authorities, Townhall has told the truth about Biden’s border crisis for more than two years. At the same time, corporate media and Democrats continued to turn a largely blind eye to the death and devastation along the U.S.-Mexico border.

This week, ahead of the expiration of Title 42, Julio is again at the border near El Paso, Texas, where conditions have rapidly deteriorated with the latest surge of illegal immigrants.

1. <https://t.co/FU2aGXwPYh>
 2. <https://t.co/P5Axv7ESUk>
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2.5.6 How to Bring People to God and Religion (2023-05-10 09:46)

There are four primary reasons fewer and fewer people in America and the West take God, the Bible or religion seriously.

1. The belief that science disproves religion.
2. The belief that reason and feelings supplant God and the Bible as the only necessary vehicles to morality.
3. The “progressive” ideologies of at least 100 years that seek to replace religion.
4. The failure of religious people to convince the next generation to be religious.

As I have dealt with the first three reasons on many occasions, I will only note that it should be obvious to any rational person that the first three reasons are ... irrational.

First, scientific discoveries increasingly argue for a God-Creator, not against one. The odds against life, let alone intellectual life, are so staggering that atheist scientists are now positing the nonsensical, let alone non-provable, idea of a “multiverse.”

Second, our post Judeo-Christian world has produced the most irrational era in modern Western history. A society nearly all of whose intellectual elite believes that men give birth; that sex is not binary; that children should decide whether they are a boy, a girl or “neither”; that fewer police means less crime; that to aspire to be colorblind is racist, which proves the thesis (attributed to G.K. Chesterton) that when men stop believing in God, they don’t believe in nothing; they believe in anything.

Which brings us to the third reason for the demise of religion — secular progressive ideologies have replaced religious ideologies. Marxism, socialism, feminism, environmentalism — these are secular religions, and they have caused the moral and intellectual chaos of the modern age.

Let us now address the failure of the religious world to preserve itself.

One reason is that most religious people — Jews, Catholics and Protestants — didn’t think they had to make the case for their religion.

They assumed that their children would carry on their religious traditions. They thought, “We go to church/synagogue every week, so will our children. We believe in God and the Bible, so will our children.”

They were obviously wrong. But even if they understood the need to make the case for their religion, most religious Jews and Christians didn’t know how to do so.

That brings us to the issue of making the case for God, the Bible and religion.

My preferred three ways of doing so are:

1. Make reason-based arguments.
2. Concentrate on explaining the necessity of God rather than talking about belief in God.
3. Provide an emotionally moving religious environment.

I know these methods work because that is what I have done all of my adult life. I believe that I have brought more people to belief in God, to taking the Bible seriously, to Jews embracing Judaism, and to others embracing Christianity than perhaps any other living Jew or Christian. I do not say this to brag. I say this to give my credentials for the arguments I am offering here.

For generations, the non-religious and anti-religious — the people who have come to dominate our schools and universities, the news media,

the entertainment media and the social media — have argued that if one is rational, one cannot take religion seriously.

And most religious individuals and institutions have implicitly agreed. By not providing rational arguments for God, the Bible and religion (all three are necessary), they conceded the secular world's argument that reason argues for secularism. That is why I have titled my Bible commentary "The Rational Bible." I offer reason-based — not faith-based — arguments and explanations for the moral greatness and the incomparable wisdom of the Bible, specifically the subject of my commentaries, the first five books of the Bible (the Torah), the foundation of both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. It is not coincidental that the Founders of the greatest country ever created — America — engraved a verse from Leviticus on the Liberty Bell and cited Deuteronomy more than any other book, secular or religious.

In addition, I have rarely made the argument for God's existence. I have almost exclusively argued for the necessity of God (the God of the Bible, not just God). The reason is that even when people come to believe there is a God, this belief often has no moral or religious significance. Most people who say they believe in God do not believe in the Bible or even in the God of the Bible. They believe that there is Something Out There, but this Something is rarely the morality-teaching, morally demanding and morally judging God of the Bible.

I have also shown people why, on purely rational grounds, without the God of the Bible, there is no objective good and evil, since without the biblical God, "good" and "evil" are purely subjective personal or societal opinions. And I have shown that without the God of the Bible, our lives and all human life have no ultimate significance, that our lives have no more ultimate meaning than some rock on some planet.

I ask most religious and conservative people I meet if they have children. And if they do, how many of them share their religious and/or social values. In general, about a third of their children do. The pain in parents whose children have rejected their religion and/or social

values is profound. The one consolation I can offer them is that if they have grandchildren, they can try to influence them. But they can only do so if they talk to them about God and the Bible in a rationally compelling way. Combined with the special love grandchildren often have for their grandparents, this can work.

If that doesn't work, we have lost America and the West.

John Adams wrote that "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." He could have easily written "for a moral and reasoning" people. Or "for a moral and forward-thinking" people. But he didn't. He knew the whole experiment rested on God. It still does.

2.5.7 ChatGPT Is Dumber Than You Think (2023-05-10 09:48)

'It's a critic of technology, I must say that the enthusiasm for ChatGPT, a large-language model trained by OpenAI, is misplaced. Although it may be impressive from a technical standpoint, the idea of relying on a machine to have conversations and generate responses raises serious concerns.

First and foremost, ChatGPT lacks the ability to truly understand the complexity of human language and conversation. It is simply trained to generate words based on a given input, but it does not have the ability to truly comprehend the meaning behind those words. This means that any responses it generates are likely to be shallow and lacking in depth and insight.

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Furthermore, the reliance on ChatGPT for conversation raises ethical concerns. If people begin to rely on a machine to have conversations for them, it could lead to a loss of genuine human connection. The ability to connect with others through conversation is a fundamental aspect of being human, and outsourcing that to a machine could have detrimental side effects on our society.

Hold up, though. I, Ian Bogost, did not actually write the previous three paragraphs. A friend sent them to me as screenshots from his session with ChatGPT, a program released last week by OpenAI that one interacts with by typing into a chat window. It is, indeed, a large language model (or LLM), a type of deep-learning software that can generate new text once trained on massive amounts of existing written material. My friend's prompt was this: "Create a critique of enthusiasm for ChatGPT in the style of Ian Bogost."

ChatGPT wrote more, but I spared you the rest because it was so boring. The AI wrote another paragraph about accountability ("If ChatGPT says or does something inappropriate, who is to blame?"), and then a concluding paragraph that restated the rest (it even began, "In conclusion, ..."). In short, it wrote a basic, high-school-style five-paragraph essay.

That fact might comfort or frighten you, depending on your predilections. When OpenAI released ChatGPT to the public last week, the first and most common reaction I saw was fear that it would upend education. "You can no longer give take-home exams," Kevin Bryan, a University of Toronto professor, posted on Twitter. "I think chat.openai.com may actually spell the end of writing assignments," wrote Samuel Bagg, a University of South Carolina political scientist. That's the fear.

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But you may find comfort in knowing that the bot's output, while fluent and persuasive as text, is consistently uninteresting as prose. It's formulaic in structure, style, and content. John Warner, the author of the book *Why They Can't Write*, has been railing against the five-paragraph essay for years and wrote a Twitter thread about how ChatGPT reflects this rules-based, standardized form of writing: "Students were essentially trained to produce imitations of writing," he tweeted. The AI can generate credible writing, but only because writing, and our expectations for it, has become so unaspiring.

Recommended Reading

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- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
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- 8

A woman uses an office phone at a desk.

Why No One Answers Their Phone Anymore

Alexis C. Madrigal

Two male figures recline on a grassy field. Manhattan's skyscrapers rise in the background.

The East Coast Is Going to Get Arkansas-ified

Robinson Meyer

How a Guy From a Montana Trailer Park Overturned 150 Years of Biology

Ed Yong

Even pretending to fool the reader by passing off an AI copy as one's own, like I did above, has become a tired trope, an expected turn in a too-long Twitter thread about the future of generative AI rather than a startling revelation about its capacities. On the one hand, yes, ChatGPT is capable of producing prose that looks convincing. But on the other hand, what it means to be convincing depends on context. The kind of prose you might find engaging and even startling in the context of a generative encounter with an AI suddenly seems just terrible in the context of a professional essay published in a magazine such as *The Atlantic*. And, as Warner's comments clarify, the writing you might find persuasive as a teacher (or marketing manager or lawyer or journalist or whatever else) might have been so by virtue of position rather than meaning: The essay was extant and competent; the report was in your inbox on time; the newspaper article communicated apparent facts that you were able to accept or reject.

Perhaps ChatGPT and the technologies that underlie it are less about persuasive writing and more about superb bullshitting. A bullshitter plays with the truth for bad reasons—to get away with something. Initial response to ChatGPT assumes as much: that it is a tool to help people contrive student essays, or news writing, or whatever else. It's an easy conclusion for those who assume that AI is meant to replace human creativity rather than amend it.

The internet, and the whole technology sector on which it floats, feels like a giant organ for bullshittery—for upscaling human access to speech and for amplifying lies. Online, people cheat and dupe and skirmish with one another. Deep-learning AI worsens all this by hiding the operation of software such as LLMs such that nobody, not even their creators, can explain what they do and why. OpenAI presents its work as context-free and experimental, with no specific use cases—it says it published ChatGPT just to “get users’ feedback and learn about its strengths and weaknesses.” It's no wonder the first and most obvious assumption to make about ChatGPT is that it is a threat—to something, to everything.

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But ChatGPT isn't a step along the path to an artificial general intelligence that understands all human knowledge and texts; it's merely an instrument for playing with all that knowledge and all those texts. Play just involves working with raw materials in order to see what they can do. You play a game, or an instrument, to avail yourself of familiar materials in an unexpected way. LLMs are surely not going to replace college or magazines or middle managers. But they do offer those and other domains a new instrument—that's really the right word for it—with which to play with an unfathomable quantity of textual material.

I talked with ChatGPT about a wide range of topics, including poetry, behavioral psychology, and computer programming, in order to test this theory. Right now, ChatGPT is just a tech demo, a research experiment. Less clear is how it might be used, beyond the dire predictions about what sectors its technology might upend. In almost every case, the AI appeared to possess both knowledge and the means to express it. But when pressed—and the chat interface makes it easy to do so—the bot almost always had to admit that it was just making things up.

Sometimes it simply used templates. When I asked ChatGPT to generate a cover letter

for a university job, it obliged in a competent but uninspired way. It also produced exactly the same letter for a job as a magazine editor as it did for a job as a cannabis innovator in the Web3 space (“I have a deep understanding of the web3 space and the unique challenges and opportunities it presents”). Fair enough: Most cover letters are terrible, after all, repeating the same trite lines and abstract gestures.

In other cases, the bot produced creative output that was surprisingly synthetic but riddled with flaws. When I asked it to generate an imagist poem in the vein of Ezra Pound or William Carlos Williams about hamburgers, it obliged with this short refrain:

1
2
3
4
5

Juicy patty, sizzling hot
Toasted bun, crisp lettuce and tomato
A symphony of flavors, a feast for the senses
Savory, satisfying, a true
American classic.

Not bad, I guess, especially for a computer. But also, the poem is not really an example of imagism, which strives to evoke a precise image by means of deliberate language (something like, “The dense honesty of / A hamburger.”) So I called ChatGPT on it. “This is not an imagist poem.” Its response is worth reproducing in full:

1

You are correct, the poem that I generated is still not an imagist poem. An imagist poem uses precise, vivid imagery to convey a specific idea or emotion, and focuses on a single image or moment. The poem that I generated uses a more narrative and descriptive style, and does not focus on a single, specific image. It describes the ingredients and flavors of a hamburger, but does not use precise and vivid imagery to convey a specific idea or emotion. I apologize if my previous responses did not meet your expectations, and I will do my best to assist you with any further questions or prompts that you may have.

I also urged the AI to generate a lai (a medieval narrative poem) in the style of Marie de France about the beloved, Texas-based fast-food chain Whataburger. It sure as heck looked a lot like a lai, beginning like this:

1
2
3
4

In the land of Whataburger, where burgers and fries are king,
A stranger came to visit, and with him brought a ring.
He wore a cloak of velvet, and a hat upon his head,
And he smiled with a twinkle in his eye as he approached the counter, where the burgers are served hot and fresh, and the fries are crispy and golden.

Except for that last line, which is a metrical mess. The AI wasn’t able (or willing) to

evaluate its work (“I am a large language model trained by OpenAI and I don’t have the ability to evaluate the quality of literary works or make aesthetic judgments.”), but it was able to tell me about the typical structure of a lai—a short, narrative poem of the 12th century with a particular structure and form, usually written in octosyllabic couplets. The lyrical errors in the generated lai arise from its failure to adhere to that metrical form.

When I asked about the matter, it admitted again that, no, the lai it had written was not structured in octosyllabic couplets, claiming that it had produced “a more modern and playful take on the form of the lai.” I was starting to feel like I was negotiating with a student who had come to office hours to complain about their grade.

This happened over and over again. I asked for source code for an Atari game about scooping cat litter, and the AI sent me valid programming instructions—it understood the assignment—but only disconnected snippets of actual code with the heading comment “This program creates a simple game where the player must use a scoop to pick up their cat’s litters and put them in a trash bin.” It was an icon of the answer I sought rather than the answer itself.

Then I asked for a set of diagnostic criteria for an invented psychological condition I named “Inherited Truculence.” The AI instantly obliged:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

Diagnostic Criteria for Inherited Truculence:

A tendency to experience and express aggressive or hostile thoughts and feelings, particularly in response to perceived threats or challenges.

A history of aggressive or hostile behavior, particularly in interpersonal or social situations.

A familial history of aggressive or hostile behavior, indicating a possible genetic or hereditary component to the condition.

Impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning as a result of aggressive or hostile behavior.

The symptoms are not better explained by another mental disorder or by the effects of a substance (such as drugs or medication).

Except, truculence doesn’t really amount to “aggressive and hostile thoughts and feelings,” does it? I asked, and the AI agreed, eventually revising its diagnostics accordingly at my further prompting (“A tendency to experience and express defiant or confrontational thoughts and feelings,” and so forth).

Likewise, my prompt to offer both an ontological and an epistemological answer to the question When does bread become toast? yielded a generally fluent, seemingly philosophical reply. It read in part: “when we are able to recognize it as toast based on its appearance, texture, and other sensory characteristics.”

But the philosophy of toast is an area of expertise for me, so I was able to discern that

this snippet, supposedly an epistemological argument, was really about perception. “Isn’t the second a phenomenal, and not an epistemological argument?” I challenged. And once more, the AI cried uncle without hesitation: “You are correct, the second argument that I provided is a phenomenal, not an epistemological, argument. An epistemological argument focuses on how we come to know or understand something, whereas a phenomenal argument focuses on our experience or perception of something.”

At this point, talking to ChatGPT began to feel like every other interaction one has on the internet, where some guy (always a guy) tries to convert the skim of a Wikipedia article into a case of definitive expertise. Except ChatGPT was always willing to admit that it was wrong. Instantly and without dispute. And in each case, the bot also knew, with reasonable accuracy, why it was wrong. That sounds good but is actually pretty terrible: If one already needs to possess the expertise to identify the problems with LLM-generated text, but the purpose of LLM-generated text is to obviate the need for such knowledge, then we’re in a sour pickle indeed. Maybe it’s time for that paragraph on accountability after all.

But that’s not ChatGPT’s aim. It doesn’t make accurate arguments or express creativity, but instead produces textual material in a form corresponding with the requester’s explicit or implicit intent, which might also contain truth under certain circumstances. That is, alas, an accurate account of textual matter of all kinds: online, in books, on Wikipedia, and well beyond.

Proponents of LLM generativity may brush off this concern. Some will do so by glorifying GPT’s obvious and fully realized genius, in embarrassing ways that I can only bear to link to rather than repeat. Others, more measured but no less bewitched, may claim that “it’s still early days” for a technology a mere few years old but that can already generate reasonably good 12th-century lyric poems about Whataburger. But these are the sentiments of the IT-guy personalities who have most mucked up computational and online life, which is just to say life itself. OpenAI assumes that its work is fated to evolve into an artificial general intelligence—a machine that can do anything. Instead, we should adopt a less ambitious but more likely goal for ChatGPT and its successors: They offer an interface into the textual infinity of digitized life, an otherwise impenetrable space that few humans can use effectively in the present.

To explain what I mean by that, let me show you a quite different exchange I had with ChatGPT, one in which I used it to help me find my way through the textual murk rather than to fool me with its prowess as a wordsmith.

“I’m looking for a specific kind of window covering, but I don’t know what it’s called.” I told the bot. “It’s a kind of blind, I think. What kinds are there?” ChatGPT responded with a litany of window dressings, which was fine. I clarified that I had something in mind that was sort of like a roller blind but made of fabric. “Based on the description you have provided, it sounds like you may be thinking of a roman shade,” it replied, offering more detail and a mini sales pitch for this fenestral technology.

My dearest reader, I do in fact know what a Roman shade is. But lacking that knowledge and nevertheless needing to deploy it in order to make sense of the world—this is exactly the kind of act that is very hard to do with computers today. To accomplish something in the world often boils down to mustering a set of stock materials into the expected linguistic form. That’s true for Google or Amazon, where searches for window coverings or anything else now fail most of the time, requiring time-consuming, tightrope-like finagling to get the machinery to point you in even the general direction of an answer. But it’s also true for student essays,

thank-you notes, cover letters, marketing reports, and perhaps even medieval lais (insofar as anyone would aim to create one). We are all faking it with words already. We are drowning in an ocean of content, desperate for form's life raft.

ChatGPT offers that shape, but—and here's where the bot did get my position accidentally correct, in part—it doesn't do so by means of knowledge. The AI doesn't understand or even compose text. It offers a way to probe text, to play with text, to mold and shape an infinity of prose across a huge variety of domains, including literature and science and shitposting, into structures in which further questions can be asked and, on occasion, answered.

GPT and other large language models are aesthetic instruments rather than epistemological ones. Imagine a weird, unholy synthesizer whose buttons sample textual information, style, and semantics. Such a thing is compelling not because it offers answers in the form of text, but because it makes it possible to play text—all the text, almost—like an instrument.

That outcome could be revelatory! But a huge obstacle stands in the way of achieving it: people, who don't know what the hell to make of LLMs, ChatGPT, and all the other generative AI systems that have appeared. Their creators haven't helped, perhaps partly because they don't know what these things are for either. OpenAI offers no framing for ChatGPT, presenting it as an experiment to help "make AI systems more natural to interact with," a worthwhile but deeply unambitious goal. Absent further structure, it's no surprise that ChatGPT's users frame their own creations as either existential threats or perfected accomplishments. Neither outcome is true, but both are also boring. Imagine worrying about the fate of take-home essay exams, a stupid format that everyone hates but nobody has the courage to kill. But likewise, imagine nitpicking with a computer that just composed something reminiscent of a medieval poem about a burger joint because its lines don't all have the right meter! Sure, you can take advantage of that opportunity to cheat on school exams or fake your way through your job. That's what a boring person would do. That's what a computer would expect.

Computers have never been instruments of reason that can solve matters of human concern; they're just apparatuses that structure human experience through a very particular, extremely powerful method of symbol manipulation. That makes them aesthetic objects as much as functional ones. GPT and its cousins offer an opportunity to take them up on the offer—to use computers not to carry out tasks but to mess around with the world they have created. Or better: to destroy it.

2.5.8 'New Phase': House Probe of Biden Family Businesses Finds More Foreign Payments (2023-05-10 09:52)

In a press conference held by the House Oversight and Accountability Committee on Wednesday morning, Republican members led by Chairman James Comer (R-KY) presented new evidence related to the questionable business dealings of President Joe Biden's family through a web of associates and their companies.

We have now established a network of over 20 companies formed by the Bidens and their associates.

Most of these companies were LLCs and formed when Joe Biden was Vice President.

— Oversight Committee (@GOPoversight) May 10, 2023

Speaking of an oversight investigation that began soon after House Republicans took control of the lower chamber, Comer hyped up the "astonishing progress" his committee has made in "only four months" probing President Biden and his family's "shady business deals" that capitalized on the president's positions of power in government.

Wednesday's press conference revealed additional money transfers during the time Joe Biden was vice president. According to Comer, while Biden was "lecturing Romania on anti-corruption policies," a Romanian national transferred more than \$1 million dollars in payments to Biden family associates that was subsequently passed to Biden family members. Conveniently, Comer explained, payments from the Romanian national stopped flowing after Biden was no longer vice president. What's more, the Romanian national identified by the committee was under investigation and later convicted of corruption in Romania.

The Bidens received over \$1 million for the Romania deal, with 16 of the 17 payments made during Biden's VP term.

The money stops flowing from Romania soon after Joe Biden leaves office, establishing a pattern of influence peddling.

— Oversight Committee (@GOPoversight) May 10, 2023

The House Oversight Committee released a detailed memo outlining its latest findings, but here's the gist:

Five weeks after Romania's president visited Washington and met with then-Vice President Biden, an entity called Bladon Enterprises Limited — reportedly Gabriel Popoviciu's Cypriot company used to do business in Romania — started depositing funds, eventually totaling more than \$3 million, into the Robinson Walker, LLC account — one of at least 15 companies created by Biden associates after Joe Biden became vice president.

After the transfers from Bladon to Robinson Walker, bank accounts owned by members of Biden's family "received approximately \$1.038 million from the Robinson Walker, LLC account...while Joe Biden was Vice President." Those family members include Hunter Biden, Hallie Biden, and a still-unknown Biden bank account.

The House Oversight Committee's memo points to a previous NBC News report that explained "Hunter Biden's work for Popoviciu in 2016 went unreported at the time, but Joe Biden's involvement in Romania was very much public."

The Oversight Committee's memo continues:

The Committee is investigating why the Bidens used Robinson Walker, LLC to receive money from what a news report has described as "a side pocket agreement directly with Popoviciu" After certain Bladon Enterprises deposits were made, the Biden bank accounts received over \$1 million in payments via Robinson Walker, LLC. It appears from bank records the Bidens were using Robinson Walker, LLC to conceal that the source of these payments was Popoviciu.

The Committee is further concerned that while Vice President Biden advocated publicly

for anti-corruption policies in Romania, bank records show Biden family members and business associates were simultaneously reaping in significant amounts of money from a Romanian individual at the center of a Romanian corruption scandal. This illustrates the need for more robust financial disclosures regarding a president's or vice president's immediate family members who receive money from foreign companies and foreign nationals.

Wednesday's new information comes after the Oversight Committee revealed other money transfers from a Chinese energy company to Robinson Walker, LLC, payments that Republican lawmakers say, based on bank records, eventually made their way into bank accounts belonging to members of Joe Biden's family.

Naturally, Oversight Republicans want to know why associates of the Biden family would receive "significant deposits from foreign sources into their bank accounts and then transfer smaller, incremental payments to Biden bank accounts."

Those financial transactions, the GOP lawmakers say, "appear to be a concerted effort to conceal the source and total amount received from foreign companies."

To that end, Comer said the Oversight Committee's investigation "will enter a new phase" that includes even more subpoenas to banks through which the transactions at issue passed.

.@RepJamesComer will soon issue more subpoenas to banks for specific, targeted information.

In addition, he will provide one more opportunity for certain Biden associates—including his art gallerist and Rob Walker—to cooperate willingly with this investigation.

— Oversight Committee (@GOPoversight) May 10, 2023

With millions of dollars making their way from foreign entities to Biden associates and apparently into Biden family accounts, the Oversight Committee added "it is not credible" that then-Vice President Biden "did not know that multiple Biden family members were committing a significant amount of their time toward and receiving millions of dollars from foreign companies in China and elsewhere," that "wealthy and politically connected Chinese nations...approached the Biden family to do legitimate work because of those family members' expertise," or that "the same Chinese nationals, whose agent was arrested and convicted in the United States for bribery of foreign leaders, money laundering, and fraud, did not intend the same corrupt objectives with the Bidens and their companies."

The latest revelations also follow the announcement from Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) that a whistleblower had come forward to make protected disclosures about FBI knowledge of an alleged criminal bribery scheme between then-Vice President Joe Biden and a foreign national.

Comer issued a subpoena for the documents referenced by the whistleblower to FBI Director Christopher Wray, but the information has yet to be produced.

👀👀@RepJamesComer & @ChuckGrassley reveal the existence of an FBI record alleging then-VP Biden engaged in a bribery scheme with a foreign national.

According to a whistleblower, this record details an alleged arrangement involving an ex-

change of money for policy decisions.... pic.twitter.com/6yLwPLi8Hw
— Oversight Committee (@GOPoversight) May 3, 2023

2.5.9 Latest Inflation Report Is More Bad News for Biden (2023-05-10 09:53)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released its April Consumer Price Index (CPI) report on Wednesday morning, and it's more bad news for the Biden administration and the Federal Reserve as their half-hearted fight to tame inflation continues to look largely ineffective at making a noticeable difference for the American people.

CPI inflation increased 0.4 percent in April, while costs rose 4.9 percent in the last 12 months. The core CPI number — excluding more volatile food and energy prices — also increased 0.4 percent month-over-month for April for a 5.5 percent annual advance.

CPI for all items rises 0.4 % in April; shelter, used cars and trucks, and gasoline up [1]<https://t.co/dJyJeKIXDJ> [2] #CPI [3] #BLSdata — BLS-Labor Statistics (@BLS_gov) [4]May 10, 2023

The April CPI number, BLS explained, was driven by increases across a range of indexes that outpaced limited decreases in other areas:

The index for shelter was the largest contributor to the monthly all items increase, followed by increases in the index for used cars and trucks and the index for gasoline. The increase in the gasoline index more than offset declines in other energy component indexes, and the energy index rose 0.6 percent in April. The food index was unchanged in April, as it was in March. The index for food at home fell 0.2 percent over the month while the index for food away from home rose 0.4 percent.

Townhall [5]noted previously that the March CPI release showed headline inflation rising 0.1 percent, meaning April's report shows an acceleration of inflation that mirrors what was seen in last month's first quarter Personal Consumer Expenditures price index [6]estimate from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

That acceleration is because so many indexes — shelter, used cars and trucks, motor vehicle insurance, recreation, household furnishings and operations, food away from home, and personal care — saw increases in April while limited decreases in food at home, airline fares, and new vehicles failed to bring the headline CPI number down.

The

CPI report's 4.9 percent annual increase also means the average American worker again took a pay cut — after more than two years-worth of pay cuts — to their real wages. As Townhall [7]reported earlier this month, the April jobs number showed annual wage growth at 4.4 percent, meaning American workers are still making a -.5 percent real wage as inflation continues to outstrip wage increases.

Broken down more specifically, here's which indexes continue to show the greatest [8]inflation in the 12 months that ended in April:

- financial services - 8.4 percent
- apparel services - 9.2 percent
- delivery services - 7.4 percent
- fees for lessons or instructions - 12.1 percent
- veterinarian services - 10.2 percent
- motor vehicle insurance - 15.5 percent
- motor vehicle repair - 20.2 percent
- transportation services - 11.0 percent
- rent of primary residence - 8.8 percent
- stationary and gift wrap - 9.7 percent
- pet food - 14.6 percent

- medical equipment and supplies - 9.9 percent
- motor oil - 13.1 percent
- household paper products - 11.9 percent
- outdoor equipment and supplies - 12.1 percent
- electricity - 8.4 percent
- food at elementary and secondary schools - 296.0 percent
- spices, condiments, and sauces - 10.3 percent
- salad dressing - 14.8 percent
- margarine - 23.8 percent
- carbonated drinks - 11.9 percent
- eggs - 21.4 percent
- crackers and bread - 13.1 percent
- cereal - 11.3 percent

Despite President Biden's promise to "build back better," his ongoing spending binge and reckless monetary policy means that interest rate hikes from the Federal Reserve aren't going to solve the problem or bring noticeable relief to the American people. Instead, the government must also address reducing spending in order to actually allow interest rate increases to slow down price increases. Without that action, there will only be more disastrous GDP reports showing economic growth slowing while inflation continues to accelerate.

1. <https://t.co/dJyJeKlXDJ>
2. https://twitter.com/hashtag/CPI?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
3. https://twitter.com/hashtag/BLSdata?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. https://twitter.com/BLS_gov/status/1656275597314646017?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
5. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/spencerbrown/2023/04/12/surging-energy-costs-keep-inflation-running-hot-n2621853>
6. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/spencerbrown/2023/04/27/first-quarter-gdp-shows-economy-slows-inflation-surging-n2622510>
7. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/spencerbrown/2023/05/05/april-jobs-report-n2622857>
8. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.t02.htm>

2.5.10 Liberal Racism and the Truth About 'White Supremacy' (2023-05-16 22:51)

Look out, “extremist white supremacy” is coming to get you! It’s lurking behind every bush, under every bed, it will get you because it is everywhere. It is, in fact, the top domestic terrorist threat in the country...if you don’t count 10,000 murders of black people as terrorism and only focus on the killings of 25 people. That may sound odd or absurd, and it is (both). It’s also what Democrats argue because they don’t give a single damn about the slaughter of anyone they can’t monetize or use to mobilize.

President Joe Biden encouraged the 2023 graduating class at Howard University to “stand up against the poison of white supremacy as I did in my inaugural address, to single out as the most dangerous terrorist threat to homeland is white supremacy. And I’m not saying this because I’m a black HBCU, I say it wherever I go.” By the way, the “B” in “HBCU” stands for black; there are no non-black HBCUs.

What is the “threat” from white supremacy the lives of those graduates are facing? Nothing. Literally nothing. A rounding error in crime statistic, at best.

Almost 10,000 black people were murdered in 2020 (9,941, to be exact) compared to 7,043 white people. How many of those 10,000 were killed by “extremists”? Well, according to the left-wing Anti-Defamation League, a group with everything to gain by inflating those numbers, the total was 25.

Reuters reports, “White supremacists commit the highest number of domestic extremist-related murders in most years, but in 2022 the percentage was unusually high: 21 of the 25 murders were linked to white supremacists.” So, the total is 21. That’s 21 out of 9,941 or .21 percent. Is that the “biggest threat” black people face? They have higher odds of getting hit by a train while on an airplane flying over the Atlantic than to be a victim of “white supremacy extremism.” (Naturally, Reuters framed it in a way to scare and mislead people, headlining the story, “White supremacists behind over 80 % of extremism-related U.S. murders in 2022.” If you don’t have the facts or numbers, highlight the percentages...)

Why don’t Democrats tell the truth – that the drug dealers Democrats refuse to prosecute are exponentially more likely to murder innocent black people than any other configuration of human being? Because, unlike that garbage like from Biden and his commencement address at Howard, telling the truth won’t get you applause from any leftists, let alone an educated black audience. And yes, they did applaud that absurd line (watch it here for yourself).

If you want to talk about indoctrination, look no further than what Democrats have done to the education system in predominately black cities, and especially HBCUs. How can anyone believe there are bands of white supremacists – a term, by the way, that Democrats have abused more than Democrat Jeffrey Epstein abused young girls while Democrats sucked up to him, to mean anything and anyone they don’t like – roaming the country looking for minorities to kill?

I wrote this in my book a few years ago, but it’s relevant today, the Southern Poverty Law Center estimated there are between 5,000 and 8,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan in the United States, or an average of 6,500. The average attendance of a WNBA game in 2016 was 7,655, a record for them at the time and something they celebrated. That meant there were more than 1,100 more people in attendance of the average game of one of the least popular

professional sports in the world than in the most widely known “extremist white supremacist” organization in the country, possibly the world.

Yet, through some miracle known only to Democrats, white supremacists are the greatest terroristic threat the nation faces. Must be that “new math” we’ve been hearing about.

That old politicians looking to manipulate black people spew lies like this should surprise no one, Democrats have been doing that for hundreds of years. That anyone still buys it is a testament to just how engrained the real racism in this country, found exclusively on the left, is still riding strong.

The fact is about 90 percent of black murder victims are killed by black killers (it’s roughly the same for every race, but the numbers are about 10 percentage points less). By not acknowledging this reality, Joe Biden is lying in order to reinforce one of the most important narratives Democrats have going. They’re also lying to obscure the fact that unchecked progressive Democrat policies truly are the greatest threat to black lives in the country. But you’d only care about that if you honestly believed that “Black Lives Matter.” Clearly, Democrats and even BLM activists do not.

2.5.11 Durham Releases Russia Hoax Report Containing Bombshells (2023-05-16 22:56)

Special Counsel John Durham, who was tapped by former Attorney General Bill Barr in May 2019 to get to the bottom of why the FBI launched a probe into the Trump 2016 campaign and Trump administration for “Russian collusion,” has finally issued a 306-page report on the matter.

“The objective facts show that the FBI’s handling of important aspects of the Crossfire Hurricane matter were seriously deficient,” Durham wrote. “Based on the review of Crossfire Hurricane and related intelligence activities, we conclude that the (Justice) Department and FBI failed to uphold their important mission of strict fidelity to the law in connection with certain events and activities described in this report.”

During his lengthy investigation, Durham found the FBI should have never opened the investigations and that they were led by politically motivated actors like former FBI agent Peter Strzok.

“Neither U.S. nor the Intelligence Community appears to have possessed any actual evidence of collusion in their holdings at the commencement of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation,” the report states. “FBI records prepared by [Peter] Strzok in February and March 2017 show that at the time of the opening of Crossfire Hurricane, the FBI had no information in its holdings indicating that at any time during the campaign anyone in the Trump had been in contact with any Russian intelligence officials.”

NOW - Durham report finds the FBI failed in its responsibility to the public and never should have launched the Trump-Russia probe.pic.twitter.com/ulIQJYvROS

— Disclose.tv (@disclosetv) May 15, 2023

Durham found that the Steele dossier, which was developed by the Clinton campaign with foreign spy Christopher Steel and then used by the FBI to obtain FISA warrants and by the media to deem former President Donald Trump guilty of collusion, was extremely flawed and untruthful.

Recommended

WATCH: Trump Impeachment 'Gladiator' Attacks Townhall Journalist on Behalf of FBI
Spencer Brown

"Our investigation determined that the Crossfire Hurricane investigators did not and could not corroborate any of the substantive allegations contained in the Steele reporting," Durham writes.

Durham: The FBI knew Steele Dossier source Igor Danchenko's claims about Sergei Mil-
lian were lies, which is why they never tried to even corroborate them. And yet, the FBI
still put the false allegations in multiple illegal FISA warrant applications against Carter Page.
pic.twitter.com/BahgiZZBEJ

— Sean Davis (@seanmdav) May 15, 2023

Inside the Obama administration, a number of officials were involved and briefed on the Clinton campaign's efforts to falsely tie Trump to Russia.

"In late July 2016, U.S. intelligence agencies obtained insight into Russian intelligence analysis alleging that U.S. Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton had approved a campaign plan to stir up a scandal against U.S. Presidential candidate Donald Trump by tying him to Putin and the Russians' hacking of the Democratic National Committee," the report states. "According to his handwritten notes, CIA Director Brennan subsequently briefed President Obama and other senior national security officials on the intelligence, including the 'alleged approval by Hillary Clinton on July 26, 2016 of a proposal from one of her foreign policy advisors to vilify Donald Trump by stirring up a scandal claiming interference by Russian security services."

Brennan knew the conspiracy theory of Russian collusion was politically motivated and yet, briefed President Obama and continued to make accusations of collusion for years on MSNBC.

□BREAKING: According to the Durham Report, the plan by Hillary Clinton to create a false story linking Donald Trump to Russia was briefed in August of 2016 by CIA Director John Brennan to President Obama, VP Biden, AG Loretta Lynch, and FBI Director Comey.
pic.twitter.com/r2NvwJyKW8

— Greg Price (@greg_price11) May 15, 2023

According to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan, Durham could appear before Congress as early as next week to discuss the findings.

We've reached out to the Justice Department to have Special Counsel John Durham testify next week.

— Rep. Jim Jordan (@Jim_Jordan) May 15, 2023

This story has been updated with additional information.

2.5.12 IRS Axes 'Entire Investigative Team' Probing Hunter Biden Taxes: Report (2023-05-16 22:59)

As the U.S. Department of Justice and FBI were left reeling in the wake of John Durham's report on the "sobering" finding that there was no basis for the investigation into Trump's "Russian collusion," the DOJ reportedly wasted no time apparently trying to use the fury of media scrutiny to make another confounding decision.

According to an exclusive report late Monday night from The New York Post, the IRS "removed the 'entire investigative team' from its long-running tax fraud probe of first son Hunter Biden in alleged retaliation against the whistleblower who alleged a coverup."

While news media were digesting the Durham report's evidence of FBI and DOJ corruption, DOJ knifed the entire criminal investigative team at the IRS handling Hunter Biden's case. <https://t.co/FuPq3B4NaO>

— Sean Davis (@seanmdav) May 16, 2023

In April, an anonymous IRS employee retained counsel after making protected disclosures at the federal agency and made contact with Republican House committee chairmen seeking to make additional protected disclosures to lawmakers about what the whistleblower called "preferential treatment" for Hunter Biden and knowledge of details that "contradict sworn testimony to Congress by a senior political appointee."

The latest development regarding the IRS' probe of Hunter Biden came from a letter from the whistleblower's lawyers informing members of Congress of the allegedly DOJ-ordered removal of the team investigating Hunter Biden's taxes:

Today the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Criminal Supervisory Special Agent we represent was informed that he and his entire investigative team are being removed from the ongoing and sensitive investigation of the high-profile, controversial subject about which our client sought to make whistleblower disclosures to Congress. He was informed the change was at the request of the Department of Justice.

Recommended

WATCH: Trump Impeachment 'Gladiator' Attacks Townhall Journalist on Behalf of FBI
Spencer Brown

The letter also noted that the allegedly DOJ-ordered removal of the investigative team appears to contradict what IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel told lawmakers at the end of April: "I can say without hesitation there will be no retaliation for anyone making an allegation or a call to a whistleblower hotline."

Since several sources have obtained it and released it independently, attached is the letter @tristanleavitt of @EMPOWR_us and Mark Lytle of @NixonPeabodyLLP sent to Congress today regarding retaliation against their IRS client. pic.twitter.com/veiqCGDPtP

— Empower Oversight (@EMPOWR_us) May 16, 2023

Given what the whistleblower's lawyers told Congress Monday evening, it seems as though clearing out the team on which the whistleblower served "is clearly retaliatory and may also constitute obstructions of a congressional inquiry," the letter continued.

More from the letter via the Post:

Our client has a right to make disclosures to Congress ... He is protected by 5 U.S.C. § 2302 from retaliatory personnel actions—including receiving a 'significant change in duties, responsibilities, or working conditions' (which this clearly is) because of his disclosures to Congress...

Any attempt by any government official to prevent a federal employee from furnishing information to Congress is also a direct violation of longstanding appropriations restriction. Furthermore, 18 U.S.C. § 1505 makes it a crime to obstruct an investigation of Congress...

We respectfully request that you give this matter your prompt attention. Removing the experienced investigators who have worked this case for years and are now the subject-matter experts is exactly the sort of issue our client intended to blow the whistle on to begin with.

When The New York Post asked for comment from the IRS, DOJ, White House, and Hunter Biden's lawyers, they received no "immediate response" while counsel for the whistleblower "declined" to provide comment beyond what was already stated in their letter to lawmakers.

2.5.13 NYC Mayor Has Some Regrets About Being a Sanctuary City (2023-05-16 23:23)

As President Joe Biden's border crisis continues to rage, Democrats in states and cities across the country are grappling with how to handle an unprecedented influx of illegal immigration into their communities.

In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams has been complaining about the arrival of 500 illegal immigrants per day and is taking drastic measures to make room where he says there is none.

Homeless vets are being booted from NY hotels to make room for migrants: advocates <https://t.co/5l0feTqkO0>

— Katie Pavlich (@KatiePavlich) May 13, 2023

Adams also started a war with the suburbs, whose leaders are pushing back.

A migrant crisis that has been largely contained to the southern border and to the nation's biggest cities just arrived in the suburbs.

Two New York counties have declared states of emergency in a bid to halt New York City's attempt to move asylum-seekers to vacant hotels in their communities, and one is already taking its fight to court.

New York is now having a battle between county and city over how to handle the crush of asylum-seekers and the strain they are putting on local services and budgets.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams, who says his city is “is being destroyed by the migrant crisis,” wants to move 300 recent arrivals to Orange and Rockland counties starting as soon as Wednesday. More than 61,000 migrants have arrived in the city since last spring.

Now, Mayor Adams is lamenting laws that made his jurisdiction a sanctuary city and asking a court to halt the policy.

Mayor Eric Adams is “now in court, today, asking a judge to revisit” NYC’s sanctuary city law:

“No one thought that they would be dealing with a humanitarian crisis of this proportion.” pic.twitter.com/UxkkYzhc0n

— Charlie Kirk (@charliekirk11) May 15, 2023

2.5.14 The Great Underestimation of DeSantis Starts to Unravel (2023-05-16 23:38)

This past weekend, Gov. Ron DeSantis, R-Fla., reminded voters, and a skeptical press that have spent an inordinate amount of time writing his political obituary before he even launched his candidacy, that he not only possesses the promise and nimbleness needed to be a candidate for president but that he also has the staff and network needed to pull off just the right move to strike a blow against his rival, former President Donald Trump.

People underestimate DeSantis only at their own peril.

The Florida governor began the weekend Friday in Illinois as the keynote speaker at the Lincoln Day Dinner for Peoria and Tazewell counties. The Peoria Journal Star said he drew a crowd of more than 1,100 to the Peoria Civic Center.

Early Saturday morning, DeSantis started his first campaign event in Sioux Center, Iowa, as a guest at Rep. Randy Feenstra’s annual Feenstra Family Picnic, spent time greeting folks at a classic car museum, stopped at a Pizza Ranch, and finished out the day at an unplanned event, standing on a table with his wife at Jethro’s BBQ.

All of DeSantis’s headline events went off without a hitch. In that regard, they were very similar to speeches I attended several weeks ago that he gave in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, and Akron, Ohio, where he was greeted with robust support after delivering speeches that outlined his aspirations for the country, his accomplishments as a governor and his promise to take on the cultural headwinds in our country.

DeSantis and Trump were scheduled on Saturday to be in Iowa, the state with the first-in-the-country contest for 2024, but Trump’s team canceled the event after the threat of a tornado warning. DeSantis took full advantage of his absence with an impromptu stop in the same area Trump was supposed to be, thus casting shade on the former president, who has spent months maligning DeSantis’s character.

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"My better half and I have been able to be all over Iowa today, but before we went back to Florida, we wanted to come by and say hi to the people of Des Moines," DeSantis said to a

cheering and surprised crowd at the barbecue as he and his wife Casey stood on a picnic table outside. "So thank you all for coming out. It's a beautiful night. It's been a great day for us."

DeSantis, to the frustration of a press hungry for a battle, has pointedly not responded to Trump's attacks as a not-yet-declared candidate as he finished his legislative session in Florida. That vacuum has allowed polls to favor Trump for months and caused impatient pundits to underestimate DeSantis' abilities and instincts.

DeSantis' unscheduled stop speaks to the scope of the organization he already has in Iowa and its competency. Several Iowa Republicans said they were surprised that when Trump decided to cancel the rally, he didn't try to do something else, even if it were on a smaller scale.

In 2016, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, won the Iowa caucus over Trump, largely on his appeal to evangelical voters, who make up the bulk of the Republican electorate in the Iowa caucus. However, Trump would go on to win over the evangelical vote in the rest of the contests and in the general election over Hillary Clinton.

Evangelicals were the most rewarded voting bloc in the Trump coalition during his presidency with his picks of Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. If Trump is failing with those same voters in Iowa, that may be a sign of a fissure in his support that could be game-changing.

For the past few months, the media have been intent on writing DeSantis off. Yet if there are two things I have learned over the years in covering presidential elections, one is to listen to what voters tell you they want, not what you think they need, and two, never, ever underestimate any candidate, especially when everyone else is.

2.5.15 It's Time for Hillary to Pay for What She's Done to America (2023-05-16 23:47)

Hillary Clinton lied. She knew Donald Trump was not a Russian spy. Trump knew she was lying. The FBI knew she lied but went after Trump anyway. The CIA knew she lied. President Barack Obama knew she lied. Joe Biden knew she lied. The FBI covered up for her. The CIA covered up for her. The DOJ covered up for her. Barack Obama covered for her and so did Joe Biden.

"We know they are lying, they know they are lying, they know we know they are lying, we know they know we know they are lying, but they are still lying," according to the sardonic epigram attributed to Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

He was describing life and imprisonment under Stalin. But it's an apt description for the Democrats' reign at Main Justice and the FBI. There's justice and then there's just us. America has sunk to new depths of political depravity, treating members of one political party differently from another, as pointed out in the Durham Report.

Justice without fear or favor, Merrick Garland? My ass.

Durham wrote the "Clinton Plan" was conceived to distract from her very real and very illegal destruction of evidence — her emails — which were under a preservation order. "According to the declassified Clinton Plan intelligence, on July 26, 2016, Clinton allegedly

approved a proposal from one of her foreign policy advisors to tie Trump to Russia as a means of distracting the public from her use of a private email server.”

Clinton’s apparatchiks, including Jennifer Palmieri, John Podesta, and Jake Sullivan, told the Special Counsel they knew nothing of the plan to distract from Hillary’s email scandal, describing such a plan as ridiculous. Durham found their protestations ridiculous.

Here’s Hillary touting the “connection” between Trump and the Alfa Bank scam. Sullivan, Joe Biden’s National Security Adviser — which should help explain why his administration’s foreign policy is such a cluster — amplified her tweet as well.

Oh, yes, it was. And she knew it was and so did her apparatchik #JakeSullivan who’s now #Biden’s “National Security Adviser.”

What a corrupt bunch of frauds. My God. <https://t.co/mccYhuA3hk> #Hillary #TrumpRussia #FBI Corruption #HillaryforPrison <https://t.co/Q2qsrdz7jo>

— Victoria Taft, The Adult in the Room, FITF Squad (@VictoriaTaft) May 16, 2023

“During the same week, Clinton’s campaign manager, Robby Mook, stated in media interviews that the campaign believed that the Russian government had carried out the DNC hack to assist Trump’s electoral chances and that Trump had made troubling statements,” the report states.

And Hillary’s pet attack dogs, Fusion GPS, seeded the fake story with their compliant fellow travelers in the media, including The Wall Street Journal news reporters and Reuters.

Fusion GPS’s Peter Fritsch “emailed Franklin Foer of Slate stating ‘now we need to do the next level, which is in the works.’ Foer responded, ‘Good deal -what’s the next level? And is it a sex scandal?’ Fritsch replied, ‘It’s who carter page met with in early july and what they talked about.’

On July 25, 2016, Mark Hosenball of Reuters sent Glenn Simpson at Fusion GPS an email stating ‘if you have stuff on the Carter Page guy, including his most recent Russian excursion, pis. send. Doing two Russian hacking stories today and might be able to do another as early as tomorrow.’

But it’s about time someone paid for all this lying which has corroded the very depths of the “intelligence community,” especially the FBI, and the body politic as a whole – reaching the top of the Obama White House when then-CIA Director John Brennan briefed President Obama about the “alleged approval by Hillary Clinton on July 26, 2016, of a proposal from one of her foreign policy advisors to vilify Donald Trump by stirring up a scandal claiming interference by Russian security services.”

None of these privileged Washington swells is going to the D.C. Gulag with the January 6ers. None has apologized to the American people or Donald Trump for putting them through this roiling cauldron of chaos.

Who should pay?

Hillary.

If no one will pay in prison then I propose a penalty for Hillary Clinton and her millions in shakedown dollars from her Clinton Foundation, which was under investigation by the FBI and DOJ — an investigation subsequently shut down because the 7th Floor didn't want to upset Madam President.

Related: The Morning Briefing: Durham Serves Up a Heap of Obvious Too Long After the Damage Was Done

Durham included the text message between FBI attorney Lisa Page and investigator Peter Strzok:

Page: One more thing: [Clinton] may be our next president. The last thing you need [is] going in there loaded for bear. You think she's going to remember or care that it was more DOJ than FBI?

Strzok: Agreed

It's amazing what you can get away with when you're a Democrat.

The Mueller Special Counsel investigation, which was strung out for years to bring maximum pain to Trump, cost the American taxpayers \$32 million.

Mueller's cover-up job and "investigation" into Trump Russia and Alfa Bank scams found no wrongdoing by Trump because, as we've learned, the idea that Trump was a Russian secret agent was a big fat lie conjured up by Hillary. That "investigation" doubled as a mop-up op to wipe Hillary's fingerprints from her paid-for oppo research.

The Durham investigation has so far spent \$6,556,507 through September 2022.

Hillary Clinton should pay for every one of the 939 days that John Durham spent retracing the steps of the corrupt FBI because of her lies.

This isn't a simple "iron my shirt" dirty campaign trick. This was a whole-of-government attack on Donald Trump that cost more than \$38,000,000 of other peoples' money and cost him millions of dollars in attorneys fees.

Considering that the Clinton Foundation shakedown op took in \$111,959,695 in just the years 2017, 2018, and 2019 — after she lost the presidential election — she's got some shekels to work with even after her fake expenses.

Despite all of the fake investigations into his background, character, and business dealings, Donald Trump is unbroken. He should sue Hillary, though, for defamation, pain, suffering, and whatever else he can contrive in New York City. I understand the Manhattan DA is big on those kinds of cases.

In the meantime, the American people would like their money back. Hand it over, Hill.

Well, whaddaya know? The Deep State Borg tried to steal the 2016 election and de-

stroy Donald Trump's presidency. If you'd been reading PJ Media all these years, you would have known that, because we've reported on every move of the Durham investigation. But the media and Deep State Borg have conspired to silence PJ Media and its sister sites.

2.5.16 'Breathtakingly Corrupt' FBI EXPOSED in Durham Trump-Russia Report (2023-05-16 23:49)

Special Counsel John Durham called the FBI's acts in the Crossfire Hurricane (Trump-Russia) probe "sobering" and said the actions displayed a "lack of fidelity." But Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) said the probe exposed a "breathtakingly corrupt" FBI that is "subversive of the Constitution."

Somebody might want to take Christopher Wray's airplane away, halt those billions for a new FBI building, and get the FBI Director a new pair of underpants after this report.

In a series of tweets, Lee, a Constitutional scholar, said the Durham report laid bare the series of political decisions to get Trump instead of following its own rules.

Lee said that "the gravity of the misconduct uncovered by Mr. Durham cannot be overstated."

□ 1. The gravity of the misconduct uncovered by Mr. Durham cannot be overstated.
<https://t.co/WOSA1XNua7>

— Mike Lee (@BasedMikeLee) May 15, 2023

"The LEAST one can say of it is that it involved a malicious use of federal law-enforcement officers to conduct a contrived investigation utterly lacking any valid, factual foundation from the very beginning. That is itself incredibly troubling—and also unconstitutional," he wrote. But he said that the Durham Report indicated that the FBI corruption "was SO MUCH WORSE than that." He stated that the ramifications of the Report showed "a powerful, long-respected, federal law-enforcement agency" using its power "to render a presidential candidate unelectable—entirely in the absence of any valid, good-faith basis for doing so." [emphasis added]

Related: Here's What John Durham's Next Step Should Be

And he said there's no innocent explanation for why the once-premier law enforcement agency turned Stasi is corrupt to the core.

So make no mistake—this can't be dismissed as mere carelessness or even a severe example of garden-variety misconduct. No—this is as corrupt and as subversive of the Constitution as it gets. [emphasis added]

It gets worse.

Indeed, the Durham Report said that the FBI and the "Intelligence Community" [CIA, NSA] never "possessed any actual evidence of collusion in their holdings at the commencement of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation." Not only did they have no evidence to open the

investigation, but they were also pressured to do so by none other than James Comey and Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe.

“In particular, at the direction of Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, Deputy Assistant Director for Counterintelligence Peter Strzok opened Crossfire Hurricane immediately” without vetting the information, including the so-called Steele Dossier. And they never checked the information coming from the Hillary Clinton campaign to see if there was any truth to it. “The matter was opened as a full investigation without ever having spoken to the persons who provided the information. Further, the FBI did so without any significant review of its own intelligence databases.”

Recommended: Where’s the Letter From 51 Pentagon Command Suits Demanding the U.S. ‘Defend Democracy™’ Against Border Invasion?

For those of you who are unclear about what the above means, it means they lied to get Trump.

Furthermore, the FBI, especially its former head, James Comey, wanted to open the investigation without the necessary predicate. Comey was adamant about getting a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrant so they could spy on the Trump campaign. To get the FISA warrant, they had to lie on the application, which is a federal crime — not that anyone is going to be punished for it.

According to the Durham Report:

OI Attorney-I advised the Office that FBI OGC attorney Kevin Clinesmith informed him that Director Corney “wants to know what’s going on,” and that Deputy Director McCabe asked who the FBI needed to speak with at DOI “to get this going,” McCabe confirmed this basic push by the FBI and Comey when he was interviewed by the OIG investigators. McCabe told the interviewers that there was a lot of back-and-forth between the Crossfire Hurricane investigators and OI regarding “[w]hen are we going to get it? When are we going to get it?” and that Corney repeatedly asked him “Where is the FISA, where is the FISA? What’s the status with the, with the Page FISA?” McCabe noted that the FISA was something McCabe definitely knew Corney wanted.

The Durham Report details how the FBI broke its own rules, didn’t vet the material given to it by obvious Hillary Clinton operatives, ignored the Constitution, ignored exculpatory information of the targets of the investigation, and used its power to try and help Clinton win the 2016 election. It didn’t work, but Deep State efforts to help Democrats were renewed in the 2020 election cycle.

Lee wondered what many of us have spent time wondering since the hinky 2020 election. “What if” the FBI and Intelligence Community had stayed out of the election?

4. Would Trump have been re-elected in 2020?

— Mike Lee (@BasedMikeLee) May 16, 2023

Several heads have rolled since these accusations became apparent, but it’s not enough until someone goes to jail for using his/her position of power to — what do they call it? Oh, yes, “Destroy Democracy™”

For Our VIP Members: The 'Fix Is In' for Hunter Biden's Backdoor Pardon

Democrats, like party organ the New York Times, will pretend this is old news, and some of it is, but Durham's report also seems to question the underpinnings of the investigations into Gen. Michael Flynn, the first target of the phony FBI probe, called Crossfire Razor. It also calls attention to the fact that Paul Manafort, who helped manage the RNC nominating convention for Trump and then resigned when news accounts questioned his Russia/Ukraine ties, went to prison for failure to pay taxes and was set up by lying Steele Dossier informants. Manafort, a registered foreign lobbyist, and Carter Page were framed as conduits through which nefarious Trump-Russia relations were consummated. But they were lies and the FBI knew it.

[O]ur investigation also uncovered that Dolan was the definitive source for at least one allegation in the Steele Reports. This allegation, contained in Steele Report 2016/105, concerned the circumstances surrounding the resignation of Paul Manafort from the Trump campaign. When interviewed by the Office, Dolan admitted that he fabricated the allegation about Manafort that appeared in the Steele Report. Our investigation also revealed that, in some instances, Dolan independently received other information strikingly similar to allegations that would later appear in the Steele Reports. Nevertheless, when interviewed by the FBI, Danchenko denied that Dolan was a source for any information in the Steele Reports.

If I were their attorneys, I would be going over the Durham Report with a magnifying glass.

During his four-year investigation, Durham prosecuted the Steele Dossier sub-source Igor Danchenko and Hillary Clinton attorney Michael Sussmann for lying to FBI agents, both of whom were found not guilty by D.C. juries. But the trials provided eye-popping insights into the flimsy FBI cases against Trump allies. Remarkably, in those trials, Durham seemed to frame the FBI as unwitting dupes of the Clinton campaign shenanigans. The Durham Report gives the FBI no quarter, no leverage whatsoever.

In short, Durham showed that the FBI:

Framed Trump as a Russian spy.

Had no legal predicate to investigate the Trump campaign.

Practiced two-tiered justice, one for Trump and another for Clinton.

Knew Hillary Clinton's foundation was a money-laundering racket.

Knew Hillary Clinton destroyed evidence and did nothing about it.

Knew Hillary Clinton was framing Trump to distract from her email scandal.

Didn't perform the most basic functions of an investigation.

Lied to get a FISA warrant due to pressure from James Comey.

Interfered with the Durham investigation by paying Steele source Danchenko.

Hid evidence of Carter Page's innocence from investigation and warrant application.

Purposely deprived Donald Trump, et. al., of their good names, reputations, and millions of dollars in legal fees.

Used its authority to ruin people's lives.

Helped further what attorney and radio host Mark Levin termed a "soft coup."

It's hard to overstate the sickening corruption at the FBI in this case and what we've

seen in the January 6 prosecutions. If you want to know what a corrupt outfit the FBI is and how the January 6 prosecutions are fundamentally unconstitutional, you may want to watch my interview with civil rights attorney and Democrat Harvey Silverglate who calls for getting rid of the FBI “root and branch.” See it below.

2.5.17 A Biblical Law That Would Change American Life (2023-05-16 23:57)

One of the most remarkable laws in the Bible is in the Book of Deuteronomy: “Do not hate an Egyptian.” It is remarkable because it was given to the generation of Israelites that had just been liberated from slavery in Egypt.

Imagine.

A people who had been enslaved for hundreds of years, and for a period of time had their newborn sons drowned, was instructed — by Moses in the name of God, no less — not to hate the people who had just enslaved them.

This is one of many examples why America’s Founders regarded the Bible as the most important book ever written. According to one historian who studied the issue, the book the Founders quoted most often — more often than any Enlightenment book, more often than any Greek or Roman work — was Deuteronomy, the biblical book in which the law prohibiting hatred of Egyptians appears.

It is difficult to think of a law more relevant to today’s America.

Imagine if the country — especially, though not only, black Americans — adopted this law and substituted “white” for “Egyptian.” Imagine the effect on America if every church, every school, every editorial page and every Democrat repeatedly told Americans, “Do not hate whites.”

Almost overnight, the gratuitous hatreds wrecking our country would begin to disappear.

Hatred of whites is the most prevalent — certainly, the most acceptable — hatred in America today. At almost every college, students are taught, often from their first day, that all whites are racist, that a black person cannot be racist, that America is systemically racist, that every black person is a victim, and that America was founded by whites to be a racist nation. Almost without exception mainstream newspapers and websites regularly publish “news” items and opinion pieces (the two are often indistinguishable) that echo the anti-white hate of the universities. The same for Hollywood and for major corporations such as Nike, and for philanthropies such as the Ford Foundation that have collectively pledged at least \$100 million to Black Lives Matter, a white-hating organization.

The most prominent purveyor of this hatred is the president of the United States, who speaks about the alleged scourge of white supremacy in virtually every speech he gives pertaining to race.

To confirm how much lie-based hatred is directed at whites, ask any liberal or leftist in

your life how many unarmed blacks are killed by police in an average year. You are likely to be told 1,000 or more, and at the least, many hundreds. The actual number is about 20 — and “unarmed” doesn’t mean they weren’t threatening and dangerous.

You might want to ask leftist friends and relatives another question: If America is systematically racist against blacks, if every white American is a racist, why have more than 4 million blacks immigrated to America from Africa and the Caribbean? Are they dumb? Is there any other example of a vast number of people immigrating to a country that hates them? Did any Jews immigrate to Germany after the Nazis came to power in 1933?

That all — or even most, or even a large number of — whites hate blacks is a lie. It is one of the greatest national lies in history — perhaps second only to the infamous Blood Libel spread among European Christians that Jews slaughtered Christian children to use their blood in baking the Passover matzoh.

Related: Torah on One Foot: Selfish Love vs. Selfless Love

This lie that whites bear animus toward blacks is destroying the American nation.

And it is doing irreparable harm to the many black Americans who believe it. Take young blacks, for example. Imagine the harm done to the many black children who are constantly told that the country they live in hates them, that all whites are racist, and that they are all victims of white racism. What kind of an individual do those messages produce? A happy person? A grateful person? Neither, obviously. That messaging produces an angry, unhappy and ungrateful person — the perfect recipe for a miserable life and, in some cases, a person who will act out on their misery and anger.

The biblical admonition to the Israelites not to hate the Egyptian was meant to benefit them — the former slaves — far more than it was meant to benefit the Egyptians.

The most obvious antidote to this white hatred is truth. One truth is that few whites are racist (other than progressives, the people who believe in all-black dorms, all-black graduation exercises, lowering standards for blacks, that being colorblind is racist, and other racist ideas). Another truth is that America — at least until this eruption of white hatred — has been the most successful multiracial experiment in history.

But there is another possible antidote: applying the biblical admonition to the Israelites not to hate the Egyptians to Americans, especially black Americans, not to hate whites. If every church — including, of course, black churches — preached, “Do not hate the whites,” then at least those who claim to take the Bible seriously would feel religiously obligated not to hate white people.

That could change everything — almost overnight.

2.5.18 The Kind of President I Want (2023-05-25 07:02)

Trump or DeSantis, one of these two will be the Republican nominee for President next year. Others are in the race, but this is Koufax, Drysdale, and the bullpen. Strange things can

happen, of course, but in this circumstance, probably won't.

The others first. Vivek Ramaswamy says many good things, but he's a rookie with no chance. Mike Pence and Tim Scott are, by all accounts, nice people, but can they say "NO!" to evil and Leftist decadence, and resist "reaching out across the aisle" to compromise with it? Compromise is certainly necessary sometimes, but never with evil. 50 % evil is still evil. A glass of milk half full of arsenic will still kill you. I don't mind "nice;" I do mind politicians who haven't got the fortitude to tell wickedness to go plague another planet.

Nikki Haley lost whatever little hope she had when she kissed Disney's backside. Chris Christie will get fewer votes than half his weight. Larry Elder seems to be a good man, but he is wasting money running for an office he will never obtain. No, barring a major currently unforeseen event, it will be Trump or DeSantis. But updates, if necessary.

To the Left, in one sense, it doesn't matter who the Republicans nominate. They will viciously, vehemently, and vociferously denounce whoever the GOP candidate is. Any Republican will face this. If the nominee were Jesus Christ, the Left would vilify Him, just like the Pharisees did, and for many of the same reasons—amoral elitists believe they should be the masters, they demand to rule, they insist others obey, and anybody who challenges them must be utterly obliterated. Many of the followers of Jesus, down through the centuries, suffered the same fate He did, and still do. People who lust for power demand others submit to them, and if they ever get that power, they will persecute those who do not shut up and cower. This is exactly what the Democratic Party is increasingly attempting by weaponizing the federal government, and it will get worse if they are given more control. And they'll try to fraudulently seize it if it is not legally granted to them by the people.

I've wandered some from my purpose here. I want to describe the person who I wish to be the next President, the kind of individual I think the country needs. Here is what I'm looking for, and I will be the first to admit that this class of politician is extremely rare nowadays.

I want a strong, principled conservative; by "principled" I mean somebody who truly believes it—walks the walk, not just talks the talk—and will not compromise for expediency's sake. I want a person who truly loves America, who believes in the eternal values and morals that the United States was founded upon, a decent person, a good person, a godly person, one whom I can point at and say to my children, "I want you to be like him (her)." I want a President who isn't foul-mouthed in public, who can artfully, yet forcefully, expose the failures in policy of his opponents, and do so clearly, but without being crude, insulting, caustic, or dishonest. I'm looking for a person who positively enunciates pro-American policies, and also has solid moral character. An exemplar in all respects.

That is the sort of individual I want as President of the United States. Am I asking for too much?

Honestly, Donald Trump doesn't strike me as being overly endowed with some of the above qualities. Joe Biden doesn't have any of them. I do believe Mr. Trump loves the country (after himself), and his stated policy goals would certainly benefit America. But he does a marvelous mimic of an arrogant, bombastic, narcissistic person; and his moral character hasn't inspired me, either. But in that regard, he is no worse than any Democrat who would run, and again, Trump's policies would be far superior. I plan to support him if he is the Republican nominee.

Regarding Mr. DeSantis. I don't altogether know Ron DeSantis yet. He has stood up against the despicable Disney. He defends parents and children against the putrescent perverts who want to mutilate and sexualize kids. He has condemned the open border (his Martha's Vineyard ploy last year was brilliant). Recently, the NAACP has attacked him, and that is indeed another plus in his favor. But he hasn't been wholly vetted yet, so I will wait for fuller revelations. I don't expect perfection from RDS or DJT. But I do want quality character in my President. "Be like him, son."

Time will tell us what we need to know about Mr. DeSantis. Let's see how he does in the midst of the national pressure of a Presidential primary race. We will find out who he is, more of what he believes, and whether he will crack under the microscopic examination of being in the national eye every day. How will he respond to Mr. Trump's assaults and insults? What will he do when the liberal media, 24/7, throws lying stones at him? Will he lay out a positive course for American prosperity to us? These things will be the true test of the kind of man Ron DeSantis is. Currently, I don't know the answers. I will make up my own mind, thank you. I'm certainly not going to accept Donald Trump's word, unless and until his accusations about DeSantis prove accurate. If Trump goes all-out brutal on RDS, he might discover that people are sick of his mouth. I know I am.

In this column, I'm not endorsing either man. I want the best person in the White House, and I will watch and make my decision. It won't be any Democrat, that I know. I may be disappointed in the candidates selected by both parties and vote for the "lesser of evils." It wouldn't be the first time.

Let the games begin.

2.5.19 The Leftists Loathe Tim Scott's Racial Optimism (2023-05-25 07:04)

It's common among the conservative Twitterati to joke that the leftist media really want former President Donald Trump to be the nominee again, assuming — as they did in 2016 — that it means doom for the Republicans.

But whoever prevails, the 2024 Republican primary cycle is going to work out like all modern-day cycles. Inevitably, liberal Democrat reporters are going to end up loading buckets of slime and unloading them on every half-plausible candidate on the Republican side of the campaign. Even John McCain learned the hard way that his media pals would turn on him when it counted.

On May 22, Sen. Tim Scott announced he was running for president, the only black Republican in the Senate. The Left desperately wants to cartoon the Republican electorate as a pack of white supremacists, so Scott has to be mocked as the worst kind of African American.

MSNBC host Rachel Maddow, now the laziest host in cable news — she only works Mondays — mocked Scott's vocal delivery. "That was a rough first three seconds of his presidential campaign," said Maddow, laughing. "But who knows? Maybe it was just a rough first couple of seconds. Maybe in the end, he will do great. It worked out great for Peter Brady, in the end. He got through it. It was tough."

Maddow compared a 57-year-old black man to a teenage white boy going through puberty. It's not hard to guess how this would have been greeted if someone mocked the Almighty Barack this way. It would be racist.

Recommended

Republicans Savagely Put Joy Behar In Her Place Over Comment On Black Conservatives
Sarah Arnold

Then there are the pompous pundettes on ABC's "The View," lecturing Scott that he can't possibly run for president based on optimism about America's racial situation. Sunny Hostin waved him off: "I don't know who his message is supposed to resonate with, actually. He's talking about victimhood and personal responsibility as if people aren't taking responsibility for their own actions." Whoopi Goldberg echoed, "He came out and did that dog whistle: victimhood."

Hostin said being a successful black man is rare: "He is the exception, and not the rule. And until he is the rule, then he can stop talking about systemic racism." You can either agree America's a systemic racist cesspool, or you can shut up. Goldberg dropped the bomb: "He's got Clarence Thomas Syndrome."

Who is really demeaning black Americans in this debate? Apparently, racial pessimism is forever.

Journalists will also make routine fun of Scott's Christianity. Washington Post political reporter Ben Terris tweeted on Announcement Day, "Tim Scott will be the first prez candidate I've ever asked about the status of his virginity." A few years ago, lifelong bachelor Scott coyly answered Terris that the ship had sailed, but he insisted adultery was a sin. Why ask? Because Scott used to preach abstinence before marriage, which apparently opens the door to invasive personal questions. So, if Kamala Harris is pro-abortion, has Terris asked her how many abortions she's had? Or how many she's funded, since she's so pro-abortion?

So far, the GOP presidential field contains two black men and two Indian Americans, but Republicans are still hopelessly racist, because any Republican "of color" is cartooned as a self-loathing Clarence Thomas, a token desperate for white approval.

The Left thinks any pushback on their inaccurately described "diversity, equity and inclusion" agenda is a politics of grievance. They're never introspective enough to see their own sign as pushing division and racial hatred for political gain. Tim Scott's optimistic and patriotic vision is a breath of fresh air — fresher than the "Joy, Whoopi and Sunny" team will ever be.

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2.5.20 Why Is DeSantis Announcing His Campaign in a Twitter Conversation With Elon Musk? (2023-05-25 07:06)

What has felt probable, then likely, then inevitable, over the course of recent months is finally becoming a reality. According to multiple confirmed reports, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis will officially launch his 2024 presidential bid later this evening. We'll analyze his selected method and venue in a moment, but let's first acknowledge that this isn't a rumor. The leak is part of the rollout, confirmed by Team DeSantis' social media accounts, starting within minutes of those reports emerging:

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05.24.2023 pic.twitter.com/CKdITktyev
— DeSantis War Room (@DeSantisWarRoom) May 23, 2023

Also on Tuesday afternoon, Casey DeSantis, the governor's wife, tweeted a Fox News article about the looming announcement with the caption, "big if true." Hours later, she posted this teaser video on social media. It concludes with the a message encouraging people to text the word 'launch' to a phone number:

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America is worth the fight... Every. Single. Time. pic.twitter.com/IWNQ3DIXgp
— Casey DeSantis (@CaseyDeSantis) May 23, 2023

The view count on that clip quickly raced into the millions. Other high-profile GOP candidates — from Donald Trump to Nikki Haley, to Tim Scott — have entered the race with major speeches to supportive crowds. DeSantis will eschew that format, initially sitting down with billionaire innovator and Twitter owner Elon Musk for a conversation hosted on Twitter's platform about his decision:

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After months of buildup and speculation, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida is officially entering the 2024 White House race. Sources familiar confirmed to Fox News that the popular conservative governor will declare that he's a candidate for president on Wednesday at 6 p.m. ET during a conversation with Elon Musk on Twitter. Along with his announcement, DeSantis is expected to file paperwork with the Federal Election Commission, which officially launches his GOP presidential campaign. His first national TV interview following the announcement will be with Fox News' Trey Gowdy Wednesday at 8 p.m. ET on "Fox News Tonight."...The announcement by DeSantis coincides with his meeting this week in Miami with top financial backers. A formal campaign kickoff event will likely take place sometime after this week's gathering of top donors and bundlers, but no details have been shared by the campaign. The blockbuster move by the two-term Florida governor now turns the battle for the Republican nomination into an apparent two-person fistfight between DeSantis and Trump.

Musk previously indicated his support for a DeSantis White House bid, but has also praised some of the other options. It seems like the broader play is this unorthodox streamed discussion with a highly visible figure, followed by a primetime interview on Fox, followed days later by some sort of major rally. Whether he'll hold it in Florida, or go straight to the trail in Iowa or New Hampshire, remains to be seen. Expect some highly-produced videos and

other fundraising and list-building pushes from the campaign, along with a flurry of additional endorsements, beyond the shows of force among state legislators in the aforementioned states. One of those cascading endorsement reveals came just yesterday from a Georgia Congressman:

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Congressman @RepMcCormick (R-GA) — a former Marine, ER doctor & father of seven — endorsed DeSantis today. He explains why here (with follow-ups at the link), citing the need to win Georgia: <https://t.co/TKPCDMB8zX> pic.twitter.com/ml18kl5wBG
— Guy Benson (@guypbenson) May 23, 2023

On the same show, I discussed DeSantis' choice to first confirm his candidacy to Musk Twitter with Brit Hume, who offered his thoughts on the matter. I outlined my own reaction (for what it's worth, I'd heard DeSantis' announcement method would be non-traditional), surmising that the governor and his team elected to go this route for several reasons. First and foremost, it's a base signal. Conservatives are livid with Big Tech, and Musk has been widely cheered as a pro-speech champion who took an influential platform away from the Left. Progressives, including much of the 'news' media, detest Musk, just as they despise the man who's about to leap into the 2024 sweepstakes. It's no coincidence that DeSantis sought out Musk, not just for the social media eyeballs he controls, but for what he represents, and who is loudest critics are.

Second, by announcing online, I'd imagine the DeSantis campaign will make it easy for grassroots supporters to offer small donations. Since you're already here on the Internet, why not contribute? Campaigns often try to make a splash with small donors around their launch, as a metric to demonstrate grassroots interest and enthusiasm. It's not a coincidence, for example, that the Biden campaign didn't release those stats after the incumbent's lackluster re-election plunge a few weeks ago. Some sources whispered to reporters that their number didn't even hit Biden's 2020 marks, amid a crowded Democratic field. And I wouldn't be surprised if this slight dig at Trump wasn't part of the calculation, too:

Scoop: GOP sources close to @GovRonDeSantis tell me the decision to announce his 2024 prez run on @Twitter was based on @elonmusk generating HUGE numbers (obviously) and to further diss Trump by contrasting it with his ailing Truth Social
— Charles Gasparino (@CGasparino) May 23, 2023

Trump famously loved Twitter as a means of communication. He's been reinstated by the Musk regime, but he's limiting his rapid-style posting to his Truth Social site, which commands a tiny fraction of Twitter's footprint. As of tonight, the 2024 Republican presidential primary really begins. Rumors of Trump's demise after dramatic polling dips after January 6th and the GOP's weak midterm performance were premature, short-sighted, and exaggerated. Assertions that the race is over and that Trump has already got it in the bag before DeSantis even got in and started campaigning (Team Trump has been fanatically trying to kill DeSantis' candidacy before it started, having already spent more money attacking DeSantis than they did in the 2022 elections against Democrats) strike me as premature, short-sighted, and exaggerated. Some of it is wish-casting, in some cases, including among Trump loyalists and many in the mainstream media, who are temporarily allied against DeSantis.

It's entirely possible that DeSantis will fizzle as a national candidate. He could fail to catch on, or recede further in the polling if voters don't like what they see. But he starts

the race with very robust favorables among Republicans and a lot of room to grow. He has a message, a record, and a plan. Whether he can execute it and incrementally, then significantly, gain on Trump remains to be seen. Other candidates in the race might catch fire along the way, with a few others likely to get in. But the real primary commences tonight, and at the starting gun — and until events and data suggest otherwise, it's a two-man race.

2.5.21 President DeSantis? (2023-05-25 07:09)

Recently, Gov. Ron DeSantis sat down with me for a one-hour interview.

I started by praising him for keeping Florida largely open during Covid.

"I just had to make the decision as a leader," says DeSantis. "Are you gonna worry about the daily news cycle? Worry about your personal popularity? ... I did not know how it was going to work out politically. I was going to do what I thought was right."

That worked well for Floridians. "If you look at excess mortality, we were the lowest in the Sunbelt and (had) lower excess mortality than California and New York."

In addition, since the pandemic started, Florida gained more than 500,000 jobs. My state, New York, lost more than 200,000. Florida opened schools quickly. As a result, kids suffered less learning loss. Good for DeSantis.

DeSantis also banned mask mandates.

"Some local police departments were going to fine people ... We kneecap them with our clemency power ... no penalties for wearing a mask or not. It's your choice."

"Your choice" is a great thing. But DeSantis' laws and executive orders often limit choice. Today no Florida business may require its customers wear masks or show proof of vaccination.

I push back. "If it's my business and I'm scared ... why can't I?"

"You do have freedom to choose, but so do individuals," answers DeSantis. "In Florida, we've just consistently sided with the individual."

But people who own businesses or who want to be surrounded by masks are individuals, too.

Florida does give parents a choice when it comes to picking a school. In fact, thanks to DeSantis, Florida leads the nation in school choice, offering parents \$8,000 scholarships they can take to a better school. So why can't parents choose a school with a mask mandate?

"Because it's irrational," replies DeSantis. "Hysteria took over evidence-based analysis ... the policy shouldn't be based on fear."

No, it shouldn't be. But while mask mandates were often irrational, and possibly harmful to children, one-size-fits-all rules are harmful, too.

I change the topic to immigration.

Last summer, DeSantis flew 50 migrants to Martha's Vineyard — a stunt meant to expose the hypocrisy of places declaring themselves "sanctuary" jurisdictions.

"Liberal elites ... don't ever face any of the consequences," complains DeSantis. "Towns in Texas are getting overrun."

Media called his stunt "cruel." A lawyer for migrants criticized DeSantis for not phoning "Martha's Vineyard so that even the most basic human needs arrangements could be made."

I read that to DeSantis. He replies, "Do you think these Texas border towns are having people call ahead?!"

"Most of those people that went to the vineyard," he adds, "were thankful to be in that area ... They were not treated well by Biden."

Today's favorite media "hate-DeSantis" topic is his Parental Rights in Education law. Critics smear it by calling it the "Don't Say Gay" law.

The law bans "classroom instruction ... on sexual orientation or gender identity."

"Transgender or probing some student's sexuality, that is not appropriate for the schools. We're going to leave that to parents to discuss."

But "it can come up," I say. How far does the ban go? "A gay teacher could say he's gay?"

"Our law doesn't affect that," DeSantis answers. Also, the decision to teach sex education is made at the district level.

Good.

I ask, "Doesn't school choice solve this? Parents who want kids taught about gender changes could have that."

Some private schools do teach that, says DeSantis. But "when you're talking about what the taxpayers are funding, you just have to make a choice."

For 44 minutes, DeSantis and I talk about: how America will go broke, whether he'd cut social security or raise retirement age, what departments he'd cut if he were president, the drug war, his opposition to Barack Obama's plan to send Americans to Syria, Donald Trump and whether DeSantis is a "slob who eats pudding with his fingers."

I don't think his staff liked some of my questions. They cut our interview short, saying the governor had to go.

I like some things DeSantis says and does.

I also worry that he's an authoritarian.

2.5.22 Joe Biden's Reaction to Ron DeSantis' Campaign Announcement Shows He's Desperate and Running Scared (2023-05-25 07:23)

On Wednesday night, Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) made his presidential run official on Twitter Spaces, though it took some time due to the record high amount of users tuning in. The launch was mocked by unserious attempts from the left, including President Joe Biden. Later on in the evening, his campaign account released a video highlighting DeSantis taking pride in his pro-life views, as well as claims that the Republican candidate would "Cut Social Security and Medicare," an obsessive talking point of not just Biden, but one former and potentially future President Donald Trump uses against DeSantis as well. The video also takes another shot at DeSantis' launch and shows moments of him laughing.

DeSantis had spent the night of his announcement speaking to Trey Gowdy on Fox News as well as Mark Levin on his radio show, followed by a town hall with grassroots leaders and later still a press call. DeSantis spoke at length about his most formidable primary opponent, Trump, especially when taking questions, including from Townhall. DeSantis also appears to have his eye on the larger prize, though, when it comes to taking down Biden if and when he wins the nomination.

During the press call, DeSantis anticipated that the 2024 Republican presidential primary could be an ugly one, referring to it as a "wildcard" and pointing out that "it could be a little bit different" from how party members "typically come together" when taking a question from Townhall about reuniting the Republican Party and winning the general election. Nevertheless, DeSantis still is confident he can win.

"I think you struggle to come come back together after primaries, if you have a factional candidate that wins that that is not acceptable to the broad swath of people in the party," DeSantis pointed out, going on to draw a contrast in how he won so many Republican voters in his 2022 reelection, to the tune of 97 percent of them.

"And so people are gonna see somebody who's got a proven record of success, who's representing the values that the vast vast majority of our party professes to hold," DeSantis offered.

When it comes to winning the general, though, he stressed the importance of winning those winnable voters who "want to move on from Biden," though DeSantis also reminded that "you gotta have a vehicle that they're comfortable with." That includes being able to win with Independents, as DeSantis did when winning reelection last year.

Biden is "a weak candidate" with "a weak record," DeSantis pointed out, though he warned the left "will pull out all the stops" when it comes to "supporting and propping up their candidate."

While DeSantis pointed out that has to "assume that it's going to be a very close election," something the polls do presently suggest for the general election, he also sees "a possibility that you could just decisively win the argument with the country in a way that just kind of moves everything in our direction," especially when it comes to how "there's not going to be a lot of enthusiasm for him amongst Democrats," which will lead them to "really struggle with turnout."

In what may have been DeSantis' most direct hit on Trump came as an aside about his electability, as the governor shared "Trump would turn out Democrats," even noting he thinks this would "obviously" be the case.

It's not just a matter of knocking down his primary and general election voters, but about showing his own strength. DeSantis called to mind how he "demoralized the Democrats" who "did not have a good turnout" in the governor's race, something he is confident he can do nationally when it comes to how voters "would be pretty enthusiastic" to have a chance to get Biden out of office.

When it comes to Biden's video response, many took notice that it appears Biden is indeed afraid of having to face DeSantis, as well as the overall poor quality and nature of the video.

Smart for you to try to take aim now at the likely GOP nominee.
— Scott Morefield (@SKMorefield) May 25, 2023

Somebody is concerned about their job security.
— schotts (@schotts) May 25, 2023

This is the most dishonest editing imaginable.

And despite trying to make @GovRonDeSantis look bad, notwithstanding the ridiculous editing & fragmented sentences, Ron still makes exponentially more sense than the senile buffoon @POTUS.

Congratulations. You played yourself. <https://t.co/svj7f35Ei9>
— Viva Frei (@thevivafrei) May 25, 2023

Joe seems pretty scared of Ron... pic.twitter.com/IOF1Gy6QTo
— Andrew Follett (@AndrewCFollett) May 25, 2023

It wasn't just DeSantis fans who weighed in to mock the video, though.

I wasn't impressed by @GovRonDeSantis tonight, but I know for a fact he performed better than Biden's best day.

2024 should be very interesting.
— John Cobb ☐ (@acutelilbnnny) May 25, 2023

Among those taking notice? Team DeSantis' Christina Pushaw. It's going to be not just an interesting presidential Republican primary, but an interesting 2024 presidential election as well.

We can smell your fear

— Christina Pushaw ☐ ☐☐ (@ChristinaPushaw) May 25, 2023

2.5.23 The Left Has Pushed the Envelope (2023-05-25 07:24)

The Left is waging a full-fledged cultural revolution against traditional America. And the Maoist results are often as absurd as they are terrifying.

Special-counsel John Durham just issued his final report on wrongdoing within the FBI, CIA, and the Department of Justice.

The summary confirms that our premier investigatory and intelligence agencies interfered in the 2016 and 2020 presidential campaigns.

Directors and high-ranking FBI officials lied under oath. They misled Congress. They altered court documents and deceived federal judges.

The FBI hired a foreign national to gather dirt on Donald Trump's 2016 campaign - while he was being paid by the rival Hillary Clinton campaign.

The FBI contracted Twitter to suppress news stories. It kept the Hunter Biden laptop under wraps, even as former intelligence officials flat out lied it was likely "Russian disinformation." That was a blatant effort to aid the 2020 Biden campaign.

The IRS just conceded whistleblowers were correct and the agency fired its entire multi-year audit team responsible for investigating Hunter Biden's purported tax irregularities.

The agency claimed it was ordered to do so by the Department of Justice, headed by Biden's appointee Merrick Garland.

California is facing a crushing \$32 billion deficit. Yet it flirts with an \$800 billion-dollar "reparations" payout to the state's Black residents.

No one has any idea where the money for that would come from. No one can define who would qualify. No one can explain why a state that never allowed slavery eight generations ago now owes selected Californians billions of dollars it does not have.

One of the reparations board leaders asserts Blacks might be willing to accept an "installment" plan of payments.

The NAACP just issued a "travel alert" advising Blacks not to visit Florida. The announcement was timed to draw negative attention to conservative Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' announcement of a presidential bid.

Chicago, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, and Indianapolis - all outside Florida - have the highest Black murder rates in the nation.

Florida by contrast, with a Black population of 3.3 million, has the second largest number of Black businesses in the nation. The chairman of the NAACP's board of directors is himself a Florida resident!

Black Lives Matter has just announced it lost millions of dollars in investments and ran up huge deficits. The culprit was its former corrupt leadership.

Its extravagant spending, plush homes, and family hangers-on have nearly bankrupted the advocacy group. It cannot account for the millions of dollars in corporate guilt and protection money it leveraged following the George Floyd riots in 2020.

In New York, a threatening subway career criminal with 42 prior arrests was subdued by a bystander and died during the confrontation. The criminal is now deified. The would-be Samaritan is charged with felony manslaughter.

The deceased's uncle is vocal about his late nephew's confrontation. But he himself was just arrested with stolen property and armed with a knife. He was mysteriously still roaming the streets despite 70 prior arrests and current active arrest warrants.

In almost every American city and town, biological males, with enormous advantages in size and musculoskeletal mass, routinely win women's sporting competitions.

They are systematically destroying decades of progress that sought to ensure parity between men and women's sports.

Corporate America has joined this cultural revolution hysteria. Companies are apparently now hellbent on destroying their brands, profits, and net worth.

Under pressure from the LGBTQ activists, the Los Angeles Dodgers reinvented the "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence" to celebrate Pride night at Dodger Stadium.

Catholics and Christians had objected to the invitation because the group's notoriety hinges on its sexualized and often pornographic mockery of Catholic ritual, the Holy Trinity, and Christian faith.

The supposedly courageous group would never dare extend its street-theater blasphemy to other religious groups such as Muslims or Hindus.

The Dodgers apparently do not care that Greater Los Angeles may be home to 6 million Mexican American citizens and resident Hispanic immigrants. Most are Catholic and many were avid Dodger fans.

Anheuser-Busch has nearly destroyed its best-selling Bud Light brand by hiring transgender performance-art activist Dylan Mulvaney to hawk the brand - and his own transitioning - to America's working classes.

The Disney corporation, for decades, has enjoyed multibillion-dollar concessions and a veritable 40-square mile private fiefdom gifted from the taxpayers of Florida.

No matter. Disney has rebranded its films, amusement parks, and television offerings to

reflect radical transgender, gay, and race advocacies.

The results so far are billion-dollar losses in Disney stock, subscribers, and viewers.

A woke CNN has all but destroyed its once-global audience. It now has fewer viewers than certain popular podcasts.

All these implosions are not just shocking but surreal. Why are our government, corporations, and popular culture colluding in mass suicide - to the delight of our enemies like Communist China?

2.5.24 House Passes Debt Deal to Avoid Default (2023-05-30 11:11)

With barely five days remaining until the projected “X-date” on which the United States is set to default on its debt, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) brought the Fiscal Responsibility Act — legislation resulting from a negotiated spending deal made with President Joe Biden — to the floor for consideration.

The result: successful passage of the 99-page bill in a vote that came down 314-117.

Falling along anything but party lines, the legislation to raise the debt ceiling and avoid default was supported by 165 House Democrats and 149 House Republicans while 71 members of the GOP Conference voted no along with 46 Democrats:

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House okays debt ceiling bill 314-117

149 Republicans voted yea
165 Democrats voted yea.

So there were more Democratic yeas even though they are in the minority
— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) June 1, 2023

B) 149 GOPers voted yea
165 Dems voted yea

71 GOPers voted no
46 Dems voted no

2 Dems missed the vote
2 GOPers missed the vote

— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) June 1, 2023

House Financial Services Committee Chairman Patrick McHenry (R-NC) heralded the successful vote on the Fiscal Responsibility Act, calling it “the most conservative spending package during my time in Congress” and “the largest deficit-reduction bill in at least a decade,” one that “will fundamentally change the spending trajectory in Washington.”

McHenry added:

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For the first time in a debt-limit negotiation, the U.S. government will spend less money than it did the year before. We achieved historic spending cuts that will help bring down inflation, consequential reforms to help Americans get out of poverty and back into the workforce, claw backs of billions of dollars of COVID money, and transformational permitting reforms that cut red tape for energy and infrastructure projects. This bill will block the Administration from imposing new taxes during a time of economic uncertainty and rein in Biden’s executive overreach through a statutory administrative pay-go rule. This agreement will also change the way Washington operates by compelling a workable appropriations process.

Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO), one of the most vocal opponents of the deal, said he voted against the legislation “because our current financial situation is unsustainable, and this bill only ramps up the timeline to our government’s eventual default.”

Buck explained his reservations:

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Back in 2022, the American people gave Republicans the majority in the U.S House of Representatives because they wanted us to rein in the Democrats’ out-of-control spending. Yet Speaker McCarthy chose to negotiate a deal that codifies the post-COVID 2022 discretionary spending baseline, adds \$4 trillion to the debt in less than two years, upholds Biden’s student loan bailout, funds 85,000 new IRS agents, and ensures Democrats don’t have to deal with the political fallout of raising the debt ceiling prior to the 2024 election. I can’t imagine a better deal for Democrats or a worse deal for our nation.

The legislation now heads to the U.S. Senate for a vote and, presuming its passage in the upper chamber, President Joe Biden’s desk for signature in time to prevent a default on the nation’s ever-increasing debt.

2.6 June

2.6.1 Why Ron DeSantis Says the Debt Deal Is ‘Totally Inadequate’ (2023-06-01 11:09)

After President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) announced that a deal had been reached to increase the debt limit and avoid a default, a number of conservative leaders have raised alarms that the negotiated agreement does not go far enough to address Democrats’ out-of-control spending. Among them is Florida Governor and 2024 GOP presidential candidate Ron DeSantis.

Joining Fox & Friends on Monday morning, DeSantis criticized what he called a “massive amount of spending” in the Biden-McCarthy deal, one that is “totally inadequate” to get America’s fiscal house “in a better spot.”

“Prior to this deal our country was careening towards bankruptcy, and after this deal our country will still be careening towards bankruptcy,” DeSantis said.

“To say you can do \$4 trillion of increases in the next year and a half, I mean that’s a massive amount of spending,” the Florida Republican noted.

“I think that we’ve gotten ourselves on a trajectory here, really since March of 2020 with some of the COVID spending, it totally reset the budget and they’re sticking with that,” DeSantis continued. “I think that that’s just going to be totally inadequate to get us in a better spot.”

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WATCH: @RonDeSantis slams the “massive amount of spending” in the debt ceiling “deal.”

“Prior to this deal our country was careening towards bankruptcy. And after this deal, our country will still be careening towards bankruptcy.” pic.twitter.com/331Q0AcRab
— DeSantis War Room (@DeSantisWarRoom) May 29, 2023

“In Florida, we run big budget surpluses,” DeSantis said of his own governance. “We have a \$1.2 trillion economy but our debt is only \$17 billion — second lowest per capita in the country,” he noted.

“We make tough choices,” DeSantis said of Florida’s budget decisions, “and we make sure that we look forward to the long haul.”

Contrasting Florida with D.C., DeSantis pointed out that Congress does “these cycles to just get them through the next election, and that’s ultimately one of the reasons why they continue to fail.”

Evidently joining DeSantis is his concern about the debt deal are the House’s Chip Roy (R-TX) and Senate’s Mike Lee (R-UT):

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Thank you, @RonDeSantis, for speaking up about this. <https://t.co/MeTTbw6P9F>
— Mike Lee (@BasedMikeLee) May 29, 2023

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House Passes Debt Deal to Avoid Default

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With barely five days remaining until the projected “X-date” on which the United States is set to default on its debt, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) brought the Fiscal Responsibility Act — legislation resulting from a negotiated spending deal made with President Joe Biden — to the floor for consideration.

The result: successful passage of the 99-page bill in a vote that came down 314-117.

Falling along anything but party lines, the legislation to raise the debt ceiling and avoid default was supported by 165 House Democrats and 149 House Republicans while 71 members of the GOP Conference voted no along with 46 Democrats:

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House okays debt ceiling bill 314-117

149 Republicans voted yea

165 Democrats voted yea.

So there were more Democratic yeas even though they are in the minority

— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) June 1, 2023

B) 149 GOPers voted yea

165 Dems voted yea

71 GOPers voted no

1236

46 Dems voted no

2 Dems missed the vote

2 GOPers missed the vote

— Chad Pergram (@ChadPergram) June 1, 2023

House Financial Services Committee Chairman Patrick McHenry (R-NC) heralded the successful vote on the Fiscal Responsibility Act, calling it “the most conservative spending package during my time in Congress” and “the largest deficit-reduction bill in at least a decade,” one that “will fundamentally change the spending trajectory in Washington.”

McHenry added:

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For the first time in a debt-limit negotiation, the U.S. government will spend less money than it did the year before. We achieved historic spending cuts that will help bring down inflation, consequential reforms to help Americans get out of poverty and back into the workforce, claw backs of billions of dollars of COVID money, and transformational permitting reforms that cut red tape for energy and infrastructure projects. This bill will block the Administration from imposing new taxes during a time of economic uncertainty and rein in Biden’s executive overreach through a statutory administrative pay-go rule. This agreement will also change the way Washington operates by compelling a workable appropriations process.

Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO), one of the most vocal opponents of the deal, said he voted against the legislation “because our current financial situation is unsustainable, and this bill only ramps up the timeline to our government’s eventual default.”

Buck explained his reservations:

Back in 2022, the American people gave Republicans the majority in the U.S House of Representatives because they wanted us to rein in the Democrats’ out-of-control spending. Yet Speaker McCarthy chose to negotiate a deal that codifies the post-COVID 2022 discretionary spending baseline, adds \$4 trillion to the debt in less than two years, upholds Biden’s student loan bailout, funds 85,000 new IRS agents, and ensures Democrats don’t have to deal with the political fallout of raising the debt ceiling prior to the 2024 election. I can’t imagine a better deal for Democrats or a worse deal for our nation.

The legislation now heads to the U.S. Senate for a vote and, presuming its passage in the upper chamber, President Joe Biden’s desk for signature in time to prevent a default on the nation’s ever-increasing debt.

2.6.2 Men are rapidly losing their close friends, poll finds (2023-06-01 11:11)

The decline in male friendships has been precipitous. A May 2021 poll from the Survey Center on American Life revealed the number of American men who view themselves as having “no close friends” quintupled over the last 30 years, increasing from 3 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 2021. What’s more, just 15 percent of men consider themselves as having 10 or more close friends, a steep drop from the 40 percent of men who reported such bromances in

1990.

Men have experienced a much steeper decline in the number of close friends they have. It's dramatic. pic.twitter.com/dGiDHJtYDB
— Daniel Cox (@dcoxpolls) June 25, 2021

Although female friendships have also taken a hit over the years, their decline was less dramatic — 11 percent of women report having 10 or more close friends this year, down just 17 percent from 1990, and 10 percent say they have no close friends at all.

Oh, brother.

The May 2021 American Perspectives Survey polled 2,019 adults from May 14-May 23, 2021. Results have a margin of error of 2.4 percentage points. See more results at the Survey Center on American Life.

2.6.3 The Anniversary the Media Would Prefer You Forget (2023-06-01 11:16)

How did I miss the third anniversary of George Floyd's death? Were the media caught sleeping? Three years ago, Floyd was given funerals in three states, carried in a gold casket and driven to his final resting place in a horse-drawn carriage. It was like the funeral for a pharaoh.

From Floyd's death on May 25, 2020, to the end of the year, The New York Times alone ran more than 4,000 articles about him. But exactly three years later, Floyd's name made it into only three Times items – fleetingly and barely.

Are the media (and Democrats, and Hollywood, and corporate America, and the universities and grade schools, and hospitals and military and President Biden) hoping we'll forget about their weird campaign to make black Americans even angrier?

Since May 25, 2020, the single-minded message delivered to black people, without interruption or contradiction, has been that they live in a country steeped in white supremacy, anything bad that happens to them is proof of racism, and oh by the way, the police are trying to kill them.

The You Are a Victim! message is unlikely to produce stellar behavior in anyone. Directed at a group that already had a pretty high rate of criminal offending, it nearly destroyed our country.

By the end of 2020, the national homicide rate had shot up an unprecedented 30 % and has continued to climb since then.

As Heather Mac Donald writes in her new book, "When Race Trumps Merit":

"New homicide records were set in 2021 in Philadelphia, Columbus, Indianapolis, Rochester, Louisville, Toledo, Baton Rouge, St. Paul, Portland, and elsewhere. The violence continued into 2022. January 2022 was Baltimore's deadliest month in nearly 50 years, with 36 people killed, compared to 35 in 1973, when the city's population was much larger."

With the black community itself bearing the brunt of the violence, by now, the ruling class's fawning embrace of the Black Lives Matter movement has gotten tens of thousands of black people killed.

If I'd done that, I'd want everyone to forget about the "racial reckoning," too.

Although the hourly "racism updates" have ended, BLM's lies have calcified into received wisdom. It is still a matter of doctrine that black people are victims of systemically racist police.

In fact, as Mac Donald has been documenting for years, police are 400 times as likely to be killed by a black person as unarmed blacks are to be killed by cops.

Using the latest figures, in 2021, a grand total of eight unarmed blacks were killed by cops. That same year, an estimated 29 police officers were killed by black suspects. Of course, there are a lot more black people (47 million) than police officers (700,000). Thus, the apples-to-apples comparison works out to: For every 100,000 blacks, 1/100th of one unarmed black is killed by a cop; for every 100,000 cops, four are killed by black men.

Maybe it's the moms of black cops who ought to be giving their sons "The Talk." Son, do everything you can to avoid being assigned to a black neighborhood. Be alert at all times, even when sitting in your squad car. If at all possible, do not arrest a black suspect. If you absolutely have to, make sure you have backup.

One person too full of her own self-righteousness to notice that the rest of her party had decided to keep mum about the "racial reckoning" was Rep. Ilhan Omar. She marked the occasion by regurgitating the exact same boilerplate about racist cops and "black bodies."

"Regardless of the heightened scrutiny and spotlight on state-sanctioned violence on to Black bodies," she told The Guardian, "it still continues to happen at the same rate, if not higher."

(What I admire most about third-world immigrants is their realization that their ancestors were people utterly incapable of building a functioning society, and therefore, if they happened to find themselves in a successful country, like the U.S., they should shut up, listen and learn.)

"State-sanctioned violence" against "black bodies"? The fact is all police shootings of blacks combined (justified, unjustified, armed and unarmed) is a smaller percentage of the black homicide rate (2 %) than police shootings are of the white and Hispanic homicide rates (9 %).

But the 98 % of black people who are killed by other black people are of zero interest to the media or the Democratic Party. It's that crucial .01 % of blacks killed by cops that get the headlines.

Neighbor: YOUR 9-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WAS JUST GUNNED DOWN BY GANG MEMBERS IN A SACRAMENTO PARK!

Black mother: Please God, tell me the shooters weren't white!

After listing pages and pages of black children killed in black neighborhoods by black criminals, Mac Donald writes: "Since the black children's assailants are overwhelmingly black themselves, the country changes the subject, lest it be accused of a taboo attention to black crime."

So black bodies continue to pile up, and the only people who give a damn are conservatives – and the police.

Happy anniversary.

2.6.4 The Supreme Court Finally Reins in EPA Water Czars (2023-06-01 11:19)

A surprisingly unanimous Supreme Court decision last week finally clipped the ever-expanding wings of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

For more than half a century, imperious regulators at the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers, with which it shares regulatory jurisdiction over "wetlands" and "navigable waters of the United States," have worked to prevent citizens and businesses from taking common sense steps to develop privately owned property in ways that benefit them and which have no significant negative impact on the environment.

One ploy the EPA and the Army Corps often have used in their war on private property owners, is to assert expansive jurisdiction over small or occasional bodies of water and "wetlands" – claiming these constitute "navigable waters of the United States," and are therefore subject to regulation under the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA).

This was the predicament in which Michael and Chantell Sackett found themselves in 2007, when the EPA moved to stop them from improving their small parcel of property near Priest Lake, Idaho. The Sacketts had, in the eyes of Uncle Sam's regulators, committed an egregious offense by failing to first obtain a Corps of Engineers permit before taking preliminary steps to improve their property. The government claimed the property contained "wetlands" that in some way and at some point in time had a "nexus" to a navigable waterway of the United States.

The Sacketts' position was simple – property with no waterway at all, much less one that is "navigable," does not transmogrify into "navigable water" simply because it is near such a waterway and might contain some occasional "wetlands." Despite this common sense interpretation of the scope of the Clean Water Act, the federal government continued for 16 years to harass the Sacketts.

Unlike many private property owners who have neither the money nor the time to wage a multi-year legal battle with the EPA or the Corps of Engineers, the Sacketts were represented in their struggle by the conservative public interest law firm, Pacific Legal Foundation, which enabled them to continue fighting until their historic victory.

Justice Alito, who authored last week's Sackett opinion, identified clearly what was at stake. He noted, for example, that literally hundreds of millions of acres of "wetlands," and virtually every piece of land with a channel or conduit for rainwater runoff would be subject to

arbitrary government permitting control unless the EPA was reined in.

In fact, had the Sackett family been forced to throw in the towel, the Biden Administration was prepared and ready to implement an even broader regulation on “wetlands” and “navigable waters” it had proposed last January: “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States.’” The gobbledygook in this proposed regulation is utterly, and purposefully undecipherable.

Biden’s proposal, which thankfully will now have to be redrafted in light of the Supreme Court’s decision, would have forced a landowner wanting to develop a parcel of land, to first determine if it contained any “wetland” that might have either a “continuous surface connection to a relatively permanent” waterway, or have a “significant nexus” such as might “significantly affect . . . traditional navigable waters.”

Even if a property owner could figure all that out, they would still need to obtain a permit before taking any steps to develop their property – a process that often takes years.

Alito’s opinion stops the EPA from forcing property owners to comply with its breathtakingly expansive wetlands position. In its place is a significantly narrower jurisdictional power that limits the EPA and the Corps of Engineers to only those wetlands that truly are “as a practical matter indistinguishable” from larger (i.e., “navigable”) bodies of water nearby; not those with some occasional or vague “nexus” to, or potential impact on actual “navigable waters.”

While environmental groups, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council, see an environmental disaster in the wake of the Sackett decision, in reality all the Supreme Court has done is to put the EPA back into the constitutional lane as intended by the 1972 law. It’s about time.

2.6.5 Raising the Debt Ceiling is Nothing but Government Theft (2023-06-01 11:25)

Growing up, I was taught that if I took something that didn’t belong to me or I didn’t earn, it was called “theft.” That is what thieves do; they take things that don’t belong to them with no intention of returning them. Some thieves might rationalize, “Oh, I’m just borrowing this; I’ll return it someday.” But they never do. What Congress is doing, in raising the “debt ceiling” for the umpteenth time, is nothing short of pure theft. They can say they are “borrowing” and will “pay it back someday.” But they aren’t; they can’t and never will; they are stealing from you, me, and generations now and long into the future.

Permit me to give a simple example, and please refrain from arguing with details. It’s just an example. Suppose my monthly income is \$3,000, but I spend \$5,000 monthly. After two years, I will be almost \$50,000 in debt. What to do? “Ah,” I say, “I will borrow the money.” So, I borrow \$100,000 to meet all my obligations. Now I am \$150,000 in debt. I continue to spend \$5,000 on my \$3,000 income, and in two years, I am now about \$200,000 in debt. What to do? “Ah,” I say, “I will borrow the money to meet my obligations.” So, I borrowed another \$300,000. Now I am about \$500,000 in debt. And I do this ad infinitum. And, of course, eventually, being unable to pay back the money that I “borrowed,” I defaulted and filed for bankruptcy. I have done nothing but steal the money that was loaned to me. That is precisely

what it was—theft. I took something that did not belong to me and used it for selfish purposes with no ability or intention of ever paying it back. Call it what it is—theft from somebody who trusted me to return what I borrowed from them. By the way, my name in this example is Sam Congress.

Obviously, my example does not conform to perfect reality, but you get the point. Congress spends and spends and spends until it is almost out of money and then "borrows" trillions more, claiming that someday it will pay it all back. What will the debt ceiling be now—\$35.36 trillion? If they took every dime of every American living right now (not just "the rich"), they couldn't pay half that debt. So obviously, they are now "borrowing" (stealing because they will never pay it back) from our children, grandchildren, and beyond. They take the money now. They spend it on what THEY want to (useless wars around the world, etc.), and lie—flat out lie—to us and tell us that "someday it will be paid back." Some day. Kick the can down the road. After all, the current members are dead and gone. Let the next generation deal with the problem.

Incidentally, we know Congress is lying because they call this new theft "The Fiscal Responsibility Act." I guess thieves think they are being "fiscally responsible," too. At least they are paying for their drugs.

Given the nature of the American electorate over the past few generations, do we expect the next generation of voters to be smarter than we have been and hold Congress accountable to pay back the money it "borrowed"? Of course, most of us reading this will be dead, too, so it won't be our problem, either. Instead, we will be known to history as an utterly irresponsible generation for believing the lies our current Congress tells us. We know they are lying to us, and let them get away with it, anyway. How are we any better than they?

Kevin McCarthy should have said one thing: "NO!!! We are not raising the debt limit one-thin dime! Not only will we quit spending more money than we take in, but we are setting aside a substantial amount each month to pay the people we have previously borrowed from. No increase in the debt limit!"

That is what he should have said. That is what you and I must do. I can only spend more money every month than I receive; I can get away with it occasionally, in case of emergency, but I can only do that for a while. I must have more income than outgo. I can't continue to live off borrowed money. So I pay back borrowed money—or I default and file for bankruptcy. The latter might occasionally be unavoidable, but it is certainly the direction the American government is heading, and, in this case, is utterly inexcusable. These unconscionable thieves are making no serious effort to pay back what they are stealing from you, me, our children, grandchildren, ad infinitum. They never will. Let the next President and Speaker of the House deal with it. Or the one following them. Or the next. Until it all comes crashing down and destroys the American Republic.

Let me end this by quoting historian Sir Alexander Fraser Tytler from about 250 years ago: "A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largesse [money] from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence: From bondage to spiritual faith; From spiritual faith to great courage; From courage to liberty; From liberty

to abundance; From abundance to selfishness; From selfishness to apathy; From apathy to dependence; From dependence back into bondage."

You don't end debt with more debt.

2.6.6 White House Left Shocked When Asked If Biden Is 'Corrupt' (2023-06-01 11:30)

A reporter asked National Security Council spokesman John Kirby a question that nearly every American in their right mind could answer. However, he was left speechless.

During a White House press briefing, New York Post reporter Steven Nelson asked Kirby if President Joe Biden is corrupt, leaving him incapable of responding.

"There have been many developments in the House investigations into the first family's international business dealings recently," Nelson said, referring to the GOP-led House Oversight Committee's investigation into the Biden family. "So what do you say to the majority of Americans who believe that the president is himself corrupt?"

"Wow," Kirby said, followed by a long silence.

"The president has spoken to this, and there's nothing to these claims. And as for the whistleblower issue that you talked about in the document. I believe the FBI has spoken to that, and you're going to have to go to them on that," Kirby finally said.

"What do you say to the majority of Americans who believe that the president is himself corrupt?"

Biden spokesman John Kirby: "Wow. The president has spoken to this and there's nothing to these claims." pic.twitter.com/u9JEZPbkwa
— RNC Research (@RNCResearch) May 31, 2023

The reporter pointed out House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. James Comer's (R-KY) efforts to obtain a document from the FBI that allegedly contains essential information regarding the president's relationship with a foreign national relating to the exchange of money for policy decisions.

However, FBI Director Christopher Wray has so far refused to comply and hand over the document, prompting Comer to hold the FBI in contempt of Congress.

After holding a call with Wray, Comer confirmed the "existence of the FD-1023 form alleging then-VP Biden engaged in a criminal bribery scheme with a foreign national."

2.6.7 Here's What Trump Is Proposing to Combat the Border Crisis (2023-06-01 11:34)

Former President Donald Trump announced via Breitbart on Tuesday that he will work to eliminate birthright citizenship on day one of his new term should he take back the White

House, saying the policy is a "magnet" for illegal immigration.

"As part of my plan to secure the border, on day one of my new term in office I will sign an executive order making clear to federal agencies that under the correct interpretation of the law going forward the future children of illegal aliens will not receive automatic U.S. citizenship," Trump said in a video.

"My policy will choke off a major incentive for continued illegal immigration, deter more migrants from coming, and encourage many of the aliens Joe Biden has unlawfully let into our country to go back to their home countries. They must go back. Nobody could afford this. Nobody could do this—and even morally it's so wrong," he continued, adding the United States, "is among the only countries in the world that says that even if neither parent is a citizen nor even lawfully in the country their future children are automatic citizens the moment the parents trespass onto our soil."

Trump said the new policy will end "'birth tourism' where hundreds of thousands of people from all over the planet squat in hotels for their last few weeks of pregnancy to illegitimately and illegally obtain U.S. citizenship for the child, often to later exploit chain migration to jump the line and get green cards for themselves and their family members."

Trump ran on ending birthright citizenship during his first campaign in 2015. After entering into office, he signaled he was going to go through the campaign promise a few times during his term but his administration ultimately did not end birthright citizenship.

In the time since he left office, hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants have been allowed to enter the United States under the Biden administration. Common among them have been pregnant women who have given birth.

2.6.8 Where Did Millions in Tax Dollars to Russia and China Really Go? Ernst Gives Us an Idea. (2023-06-01 11:38)

It's no secret that hardworking American taxpayers often watch as the fruits of their labor are co-opted by the government and used to fund projects, agencies, or priorities that don't align with their own. It's frustrating, but taxes are notoriously the one certain thing other than death.

Some federal government uses of tax dollars are more inexplicable and infuriating than others, especially those that see revenues leave America's shores while taxpayers see their fellow citizens — sometimes even their own families — struggling to build a good life at home.

Well, prepare to be even more infuriated at bloated government and its use of tax revenues thanks to new analysis of tax dollars that ended up in Russia and China over the past five years released by U.S. Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) on Wednesday afternoon.

According to this new review of federal spending in Russia and China, more than \$490 million worth of taxpayer-funded grants and contracts were awarded to entities in China while even more — \$870 million — went to Russian entities. That's just the \$1.3 billion-plus tax dollars that could be tracked to Russia and China, as Ernst notes, because federal agencies aren't currently required to follow tax dollars to their ultimate destination and report that information.

What's more, the federal government itself has admitted there's a "government-wide issue" with its limited ability to track tax dollars. In a Government Accountability Office report from earlier this year, the GAO explained this flaw:

For example, the Department of Health and Human Services obligated funding through assistance awards to study infectious diseases, and the Department of State obligated funding through contracts to purchase goods and services for U.S. government operations in China. U.S. award recipients also provided funding through subawards to entities located in China. However, the full extent of these subawards is unknown because of limitations in the completeness and accuracy of subaward data reported in government systems. For example, subaward data may be incomplete because award recipients are required to provide information only for subawards valued at \$30,000 or more, in accordance with federal subaward reporting requirements. Limitations in subaward data is a government-wide issue and not unique to U.S. funding to entities in China.

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"It is gravely concerning that no one in Washington can actually account for millions sent to Russia and China for pointless projects. But I have the receipts," Senator Ernst told Townhall. "I'm shining a light on this reckless spending, so bureaucrats can no longer cover up their tracks and taxpayers can know exactly what their hard-earned dollars are funding."

What was found in the analysis of taxpayer-funded projects in Russia and China over the last five years by Ernst included art exhibits for "gender equality," Russian research of alcohol addiction, food for American school lunches from Chinese companies, payments to a Russian company that has been sanctioned by the U.S. government, and more than \$750,000 for a Russian government-run lab to put cats on treadmills.

So how did the work of Americans turn into paydays for those in Russia and China, including entities being economically punished by the U.S. government? An apparently staggering lack of accountability paired with a federal spending binge that seems to know no bounds.

To that end, Ernst — along with Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) in the House — unveiled the Tracking Receipts to Adversarial Countries for Knowledge of Spending (TRACKS) Act on Wednesday to bring clearly needed transparency and accountability for taxpayer dollars as they make their way around the world while making it more difficult for waste, fraud, and abuse to go unnoticed and unchecked.

The TRACKS Act would amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to require those spending U.S. tax dollars to "collect and report data relating to subawards granted to entities outside of the United States" and to make that information publicly available for oversight, holding the government more accountable to the taxpayers who fund it.

"Washington's continued spending is so out of hand it is losing track of Americans' hard-earned taxpayer dollars," E

2.6.9 Why The Marxists Always Win (use the smith act & treason on democratic party) (2023-06-03 11:07)

"I knew it was a good [debt] deal when I saw the lefties screaming." With that foolish statement, former Director of the National Economic Council under Trump and current Fox Business host Larry Kudlow demonstrated his ignorance of how Marxists create "conflict" that benefits the expansion of government control over our lives.

Kudlow buys into the notion of "conflict" being proof that his position is the correct one when the conflict is being staged to make people like him fall for the notion that the Marxists have lost the battle. In fact, they have already won the war.

The war, in this case, is more debt, thus expanding government and shrinking the private sector. This is what House Speaker Kevin McCarthy agreed to.

According to Marxists, the essence of economic life is struggle, as conflict develops, and "progress" is made. Practically speaking, this means the coming of an all-powerful government, known as the communist state. As they see it, we are now in the socialist phase, on the road to communism.

Even with the original Republican proposal, the Republicans had agreed to spend more money and go further into debt. But the McCarthy proposal is even more of a surrender, causing some conservatives under fire from over-taxed constituents to utter peeps of protest.

But these conservatives already voted to make McCarthy the Speaker. They have been played as fools and now have egg all over their faces.

Because the Marxists are going through the motions of acting disappointed with the debt deal, it must be good, Kudlow says. He calls them "lefties" when they are far so far to the left that they are more accurately described as hard-core Marxists. And Marxists understand how to exploit conflict so their side prevails in the long run. That's Marxist dialectics. And conservatives like Kudlow are falling for it.

Our book, *The Sword of Revolution and the Communist Apocalypse* explains how Marxist dialectics has been used by such figures as Barack Hussein Obama and confuses people about the nature and goals of communism.

The Democrats have learned a lot from Obama.

Consider Obamacare. It was sold by Obama as the "Affordable Care Act," when it was based on what even the liberal "fact-checkers" admitted was the "lie of the year" – "If you like your health care, you can keep it."

After he engineered the "fundamental transformation" of America, which included the socialized medicine scheme known as Obamacare, the debate moved even further to the left. Congressional Republicans failed to terminate this program under Trump when then-Senator John McCain voted with the Democrats to save it.

Today, Republicans don't even pretend to be opposed to this Obama-era program. Indeed, in 2022, Republicans didn't run on the issue, even though it's a major factor in the debt

and spending problems and the massive expansion of government power we face today.

This is how government grows and debt rises to overcome the so-called “debt ceiling.”

House Speaker McCarthy should have insisted on the repeal of Obamacare in his debt ceiling “negotiations.” But he negotiated on left-wing terms, a victory for the Marxists.



[1]

By framing the issue in terms favorable to the Marxists, the Marxists always win. First, they move the entire debate to the left. In this case, the issue was already framed in terms of expanding the debt. The debate should have been whether to let the federal government default, as former President Trump suggested. At this rate of spending, it's going to come sooner or later.

Biden's Treasury Department argued that “Failing to increase the debt limit would have catastrophic economic consequences.” Where is the proof? Increasing the debt limit in the past has already had catastrophic economic consequences.

We are told that the debt ceiling was created with “the good intention of constraining reckless spending,” as one writer put it. If it's a true “debt ceiling,” why raise it? Why not, instead, mandate immediate spending cuts? That was the only legitimate option.

We are told that the U.S. government would “run out of money” unless Congress passes a bill to raise the debt limit. The Wall Street Journal claims that McCarthy's deal is raise the debt ceiling “in exchange for spending cuts.” But the cuts are only in the rate of growth of spending. Common sense tells you that raising the debt ceiling means more debt based on more spending.

You don't have to be a financial genius to question this never-ending series of statements

threatening an economic apocalypse.

Former President Trump had said, “I say to the Republicans out there — congressmen, senators — if they don’t give you massive cuts, you’re going to have to do a default. And I don’t believe they’re going to do a default because I think the Democrats will absolutely cave, will absolutely cave because you don’t want to have that happen. But it’s better than what we’re doing right now because we’re spending money like drunken sailors.”

But McCarthy did not follow Trump’s advice. He caved, not the Democrats.

The Trump position was dismissed when it should have been a legitimate starting point for the debate. Indeed, some would argue that it would be wiser for the federal government to go through a default, in the same way that bankruptcy allows a company to be reorganized, and that such an approach is needed with the bloated and out-of-control federal government.

Remember that, on top of the national debt of \$31 trillion, there is the matter of “un-funded liabilities,” estimated at \$93.1 trillion or more.

The Treasury Department’s own Financial Report of the United States Government says “The current fiscal path is unsustainable.” Under these conditions, McCarthy has agreed to more debt and more spending.

The House should have held hearings on a default, analyzing how the money should be spent and for what constitutional purposes. Under these circumstances, the Constitution would dictate that spending on national defense would have to be a priority.

Since there’s not enough money to spend on all the rest of the federal programs, unless new massive “progressive” taxes are implemented, we desperately need an alternative form of money that people can use for their own needs, bypassing the federal tax system.

To his credit, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has endorsed decentralized cryptocurrencies, over which the federal government has no control. By contrast, Biden favors a centrally controlled digital currency through the Federal Reserve and his Securities and Exchange Commission has engineered a crackdown on the crypto sector.

“They want to get rid of crypto,” DeSantis said of Biden & Company. “They don’t like crypto because they can’t control crypto, so they want to put everything in a central bank digital currency.” This is what the regime is doing in Communist China, DeSantis noted.

What China is doing could be described as the next phase by the Marxists, as we move into full-blown communism, a “financial surveillance state, where they know every transaction that you’re making,” DeSantis warned.

It should be obvious by now that the federal government has too much control over our money, and that money is quickly losing its value. We need a new beginning, a new revolution, the kind waged by our Founding Fathers.

1. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/d6/Statue_of_Lenin_Seattle.jpg

2.6.10 The Origins Of Queer Communism (use smith act on Democratic Party)

(2023-06-03 11:08)

So-called “pride” clothing for kids from a transgender designer who sells Satan-themed products? Where did all of this come from? Clearly, American corporations are transmission belts for Satanism and communism. But the communists exported Cultural Marxism to the United States.

Many conservatives do not understand this.

The author of *Communism for Kids*, Bini Adamczak, wrote that “the Russian revolution instilled new hope, particularly in women and people who did not identify themselves within the hetero-normative paradigm.” The “destruction of the family,” she writes, was the goal. “With the revolution, the right to legal abortion, both sexes’ right to divorce, the decriminalization of adultery, and the annulment of the sodomy law (which had previously prohibited homosexuality) were implemented and enforced,” she explains.

In other words, as one scholar noted, the tsarist legal codes were abrogated “in the name of socialist justice.”

“In Moscow, one could find international communes led by gay communists,” she says. “Drag kings could become legitimate members of the Red Army. Participants of the revolutionary debates decided upon the destruction of the family, demanded the legalization of incest, and advertised the practice [of] polygamy.”

However, in 1934, after Stalin had consolidated power, he returned to what the communists called “the remnants of the old regime,” a recognition that the sexual revolution was proceeding too fast and was too disruptive.

In the United States where “Queer Communism” was exported through the Frankfurt School, Harry Hay, a Communist Party USA member, founded the modern gay rights movement in the U.S.

The role of Russia is confusing to some, since Russia has moved into a different phase of communist revolution, having neglected the capitalist stage of development outlined by Karl Marx, and is now trying to reclaim certain tendencies that seem to be offensive to liberals in the West, such as nationalism and religion, in order to rally its dispirited and demoralized populace.

Striking a pro-family pose, the divorced Russian ruler, Vladimir Putin, bans gay propaganda in schools.

In the United States, the extreme forms of Cultural Marxism that are now expressing openly Satanic themes have emerged because of the “progressive” breakdown in the traditional family structure, referred to in stark terms as the abolition of the family in the Communist Manifesto.

This began decades ago in the easy divorce laws resulting from married couples committing adultery. Sadly, most people know friends, neighbors, and family members going through a divorce. Families were destroyed.

Mark Levin's book *American Marxism* notes the explicit anti-family part of the Communist Manifesto without linking the Marxist campaign to many of the social and cultural problems, especially failing marriages, plaguing the United States, and creating fatherless families.

As I noted in my column, "The American Marxist Revolution," to put it bluntly, most Americans care more about their own sexual pleasures than their own families and children anymore. They expect the government to take care of their kids and their problems, manifested in such spectacles as mass shootings, drug use, and alleged addiction to Facebook.

That's the appeal of Big Government socialism. In effect, we have lost control and so public authorities and institutions must control our families, our kids, and even the weapons we need for self-defense against Big Government.

In the wake of this family breakdown, the Cultural Marxists and their allies, some of them dupes with no real understanding of what they are doing and whose aims they serve, have decided to go in for the kill.

The transgender movement, itself started by a communist named Lesley Feinberg, we see today was a natural outgrowth of the "gay" movement.

If there was ever a true "American Marxist," to use Levin's jargon, it was Harry Hay. He was the personification of family disintegration and breakdown. Levin's book doesn't mention him, perhaps because one of his employers, Fox News, hires and promotes homosexuals and transgenders (Bruce Jenner), and underwrites the activities of the Association of LGBTQ Journalists.

Hay was a Communist Party member who started the modern gay rights movement in America after divorcing his wife. He contracted a venereal disease, became a "radical fairy" with an interest in the occult, and marched for the cause of adults having sex with children.

Some might say he was mentally ill. No, he was a communist.

That's the next phase - pedophilia. In fact, the cover-up regarding this "sexual orientation" is already underway.

Pedophile Jeffrey Epstein's deep and dark secret is that he was a bisexual who used homosexuality, blackmail, and extortion to acquire wealth and power. Later, Epstein used the young girls to provide blackmail material on other elites.

In the latest revelation, we see reports that Epstein was using a Russian "bridge player" to blackmail billionaire Bill Gates.

It looks like a typical Russian honey trap.



[1]

Democratic Party's Lenin Statue in Seattle

[2]



X

Whatever the circumstances and ultimate truth about the “bridge player,” consider how easy must it be for the communists to trap our top people. But rest assured that Gates, who just went through a costly divorce, will be protected

1. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/d6/Statue_of_Lenin_Seattle.jpg

2. <http://s1090.photobucket.com/albums/i377/fb22strikeraptor/?action=view¤t=leninindrag.jpg>

2.6.11 Migrants In America Causing Collapse Of Law Enforcement (2023-06-03 11:09)

These sanctuary governors and mayors are arguing the wrong point. It is not so much about where to house these people and re-shipping them to other locations, but rather the scandal

should be to tell the entire illegal immigrant operation that there is nothing in America to come to that is better than what they left. Consider just how much money these people spend to come here and the deadly traveling just to get beyond our borders. Are these people coming to anything better in the long term than what they left? Do they really want to work in slaughterhouses, work farms in disgusting living conditions? Do they really want to be trafficked in the sex trade industry?

Ah, but read on to see a Chicago police station and consider how it is in expensive hotels across the country where we have no idea of their names, ages, or even their history, no visas, no passports, and no documents at all. How can law enforcement even begin to deal with this considering all the other existing crime across the country...

A huge hat tip to Rebecca Brannon!

New footage shows a Chicago police station filled with mattresses and dozens of illegal migrants, as the city struggles to house the hundreds of border crossers arriving there each day.

Officials in Chicago have said they cannot afford to rent hotel rooms for the more than 8,000 migrants who have arrived in their city and have pushed for more federal funds to cover costs.

Due to the lack of available shelters, some migrants have turned to police stations for a safe place to sleep.

The migrant-housing crisis in Chicago follows last week's end to the Trump-era COVID-19 border restriction known as Title 42, which allowed U.S. authorities to send migrants back to Mexico without giving them a chance to seek asylum.

Tens of thousands of people hurried to cross the border illegally into the U.S. before President Joe Biden implemented a strict new asylum policy to replace Title 42.

In the shocking footage posted by photojournalist Rebecca Brannon, dozens and dozens of migrants are seen sitting on and around mattresses in a Chicago police station.

Brannon reported that many of the migrants have slept and eaten on the floors, which has placed a strain on the law enforcement officers whose day-to-day jobs have been made more difficult by their presence.

Small children were seen running around and an alley sits full of trash produced by the migrants.

Chicago already has a serious violent crime problem, with its new influx of migrants likely to further strain budgets desperately needed to try and make the city safer.

More than 8,000 migrants have arrived in Chicago since August, which is when southern states started to bus asylum seekers north. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott sent migrants to the Democrat-led cities to help ease the burden on border towns.

'To provide much-needed relief to our overrun border communities, Texas began busing

migrants to sanctuary cities such as your 'Welcoming City,' along with Washington, DC, New York City, and Philadelphia, with more to come. Until Biden secures the border to stop the inflow of mass migration, Texas will continue this necessary program,' Abbott noted in a letter earlier this month.

Migrants have been sent to cities such as Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York. Migrants have also arrived in Washington, DC, with buses stopping outside the home of Vice President Kamala Harris.



[1]

Democratic Party is having dictatorship of the proletariat right now. Seattle statue

Despite Chicago's obvious overcrowding issue, new Mayor Brandon Johnson, a progressive Democrat who assumed office Monday, said in his inauguration speech that in Chicago, 'there's enough room for everyone.'

Johnson's affirmed commitment to welcoming migrants to Chicago follows his predecessor - Lori Lightfoot's decision to declare a state of emergency earlier this month, calling migrant arrivals a 'humanitarian crisis' and pushing for increased federal aid.

Chicago officials have said they expect a \$53 million shortfall without additional aid because of the cost of housing migrants.

1. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/d6/Statue_of_Lenin_Seattle.jpg

2.6.12 Constitutional Principles And The Debt Deal (2023-06-03 11:10)

In justifying the "historic" debt deal, Rep. Jason Smith said Republicans only control one-half of one-third of the federal government. But it was the most important one-half of one-third.

The failure by the House to take advantage of its constitutional power may deliver the United States into receivership by the International Monetary Fund as the nation careens toward bankruptcy.

The House is where money bills are supposed to begin. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, the Constitution says.

Smith can find that on the website of his House Ways and Means Committee.

The Constitution also says: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and...To borrow Money on the credit of the United States."

In the case of the debt deal, the House had passed a bill and the Senate did nothing with it. That's not the fault of the House. The House did its constitutional duty.

The House should have stood its ground. Indeed, McCarthy had all the leverage and could have insisted on a reduction in debt as well as:

Building the border wall

Repeal of the green wasteful "Inflation Reduction Act," which causes inflation.

Repeal of Obamacare.

Instead, House Speaker McCarthy begged for a meeting with Biden and his regime. At first, Biden refused to negotiate, putting pressure on McCarthy, who eventually agreed to the "negotiations."

By doing nothing, the Democratic-controlled Senate was putting pressure on the House to comply with the debt deal proposed by Democrats and the Biden regime. But there is no reason why this meant the House had to comply and do their bidding.

The result was that more Democrats than Republicans voted for the ultimate deal.

All of the constitutional power rested with the Republicans in the House. They had the leverage and gave it up. They should have waited until Biden and the Senate Democrats complied with their demands.

In other words, McCarthy gave up his power position. Not only did he give up his power position, but his original debt ceiling proposal also raised the debt ceiling. Once he was in "negotiations," he agreed to more debt and spending. There was no reason to do this. A default would have been the preferable option. A default means that the U.S. would restructure the debt. There is nothing inherently wrong with this.

The alternative, accepted by McCarthy, is to devalue the American currency through inflation. In other words, more of the same. Bharat Ramamurti, Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, notes the deal "locked in" the "progressive accomplishments" of Biden's first term.

This is what McCarthy agreed to.

A restructuring of the government's financing would include coming to grips with the fact that the federal government can't pass an audit.

Here's what the Government Accountability Office (GAO) says, "GAO has been auditing the federal government's consolidated financial statements since FY 1997 (as well as various other federal financial statements). However, GAO continues to be unable to render an audit opinion on the government's accrual-based consolidated financial statements — which present historical information such as assets, liabilities, revenue, and net cost."

This is one reason why fiscal policy, according to the Department of the Treasury, is on an "unsustainable" path.

On this basis, what sense does it make to give this government more of an ability to go into debt and spend money? We actually need a complete restructuring of the federal government and the "debt" they say we owe.

In the future, as America goes further into debt, it will be left to the "progressives" and their international comrades to start the process of receivership, using the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to impose or force certain policies on the United States.

One conservative activist commented in response to this debacle: Republicans are their own worst enemy; with Republicans who needs Democrats; and keep your enemies (Democrats) close to your vest, but Republicans closer.

2.6.13 Minnesota Democrats Left Minnesotans Behind (2023-06-10 15:45)

The legislative session has wrapped up here in Minnesota, where we are carefully reflecting on the outcomes and how they will affect our lives. But what happened here in Minnesota shouldn't just be a point of consideration for our own residents, but coast to coast as we examine the dangerous, lasting impacts of what has become a national test kitchen for extreme liberalism.

Minnesotans voted for single-party control of state government last fall. Democrats won full control, in large part, by making promises on the campaign trail they clearly never intended to keep. Democrats promised popular things like tax relief and support for law enforcement, and said they'd help Minnesotans struggling with rising costs in their everyday lives. They broke those promises and we're all going to pay the price.

In this first session of full control, Democrats pivoted to advance a radical agenda, moving fast and furious to enact a laundry list of partisan priorities, and they're sending Minnesotans the bill.

Minnesota's historic \$17.5 billion surplus even had Democrats pledging tax relief in the form of returning the surplus. On the campaign trail, Gov. Tim Walz promised Minnesotans huge \$2,000 rebate checks. But then Democrats started spending, and they quickly realized they'd rather use that surplus themselves to increase state spending by a staggering 40 percent than give it back to our state's overcharged taxpayers. I'm already hearing from constituents who are disappointed to learn the rebate checks are a measly \$260 for a select

few Minnesotans, and many won't see a penny.

The full elimination of the tax on Social Security is another area of tax relief that had bipartisan support. Several Democrats in both the House and Senate campaigned on the issue and said they would hold their votes to get it. Republicans gave plenty of opportunities for them to join us and hold true to that promise, but, once again, they were already committed to spending taxpayer money and no longer wanted to provide relief. They chose political paybacks over seniors, and Minnesota will continue to be one of only 11 states that still tax income from Social Security benefits.

It gets worse: not only did Democrats fail to keep their promise on reducing taxes, but they also actually raised taxes. Democrats raised nearly \$10 billion in taxes and fees across the budget — and we're still counting. Minnesotans will pay more when they get their car tabs renewed, register their boats, buy gas, order online, shop in the Twin Cities metro area or buy a car. All workers will pay new taxes for a new statewide mandate and bureaucracy for an untested paid-leave system that will eliminate private paid-leave benefits many workers already have and like. Everyone will be paying more to fund out-of-control spending. The small tax rebate is temporary, but the tax hikes are permanent.

Not only did state Democrats pile on tax increases at a time of economic uncertainty but they caused doubt over general safety as well. Democrats promised voters they would get serious about public safety, but when push came to shove, they were more focused on the rights of criminals than the rights of victims. From felon voting to making 92 % of the prison population — more than 7,000 criminals — eligible for early release and reduced jail time, Democrats are taking chances with public safety as they push through soft-on-crime policies that will do nothing to prevent criminal activity at a time violent crime remains abnormally high in our state.

All of this was done in one of the most partisan sessions ever. We saw dozens of strong, bipartisan positions get stripped out of this year's major bills, many times with no discussion, in the dark of night and to the shock of the Republican authors. Legislation is stronger when it is built with support from both parties and includes the feedback of people from across the state, but that's not the way Democrats operated this session.

Minnesota has turned into a Democrat pilot project for just how far unchecked power can push the envelope. Democrats here in state and nationally are describing this session as "transformative," and it certainly has been. The changes wrought by radical, one-party rule will make Minnesota a less affordable place to live, work, and raise a family. That's not the transformation voters asked for and, frankly, it's not even what most Democrats can support.

It's up to Minnesota voters to hold Democrats accountable for their broken promises and extremist approach.

2.6.14 The Truth About the Railway Safety Act (2023-06-10 15:46)

Three months later, the 4,700 people of East Palestine, Ohio, continue to bravely deal with the fallout from the tragic Norfolk

Southern train derailment. Over 1.6 million pounds of toxic chemicals were dumped into the community, and the cleanup continues.

Sadly, U.S. Senators such as Sherrod Brown (D-OH) are ignoring the people of East Palestine and are instead using this senseless tragedy as an opportunity to grant powerful unions their legislative wish list through the so-called "Railway Safety Act."

Under the guise of public safety, this bill sacrifices free market principles and innovation for the sake of regulation, with impractical requirements. For example, the bill requires railroads to go to personal inspection points and inspect each train car in the direction of travel, which would cause significant congestion and delays on the nation's rail network. It would also require hiring new inspectors without being able to demonstrate a safety improvement.

The current inspection and maintenance system has worked well for many years. In fact, track-caused accidents are down 55 percent since 2000, and are at their lowest-ever rate across the entire industry. In fact, equipment-caused accidents are down 21 percent since 2000. The inspection requirements of the bill would only burden the railroad industry with unnecessary costs and cause more problems than they solve.

A one-size-fits-all performance standard for failed sensors is also problematic. These new rules would ignore the vast differences in Class I rail networks, geography, and operation. Different rail networks have unique needs and requirements, and a one-size-fits-all approach would not consider these differences.

In addition, the bill's requirement to combine multiple regulatory frameworks into one system must be clarified to make enforcement more manageable.

Moreover, the bill creates a huge loophole that grants vast powers to Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg to regulate the use of detectors. Buttigieg, who is eager to run for president again, is looking to make up for the Biden administration's initial absence from East Palestine and is now ready to overregulate the rail industry, stifling innovation and improvements. Where was President Biden and Secretary Pete before tragedy struck East Palestine? Was Sleepy Joe and Mayor Pete asleep at the wheel, neglecting rail infrastructure investment when they were at the helm?

Equipping a two-person crew is also problematic. To begin with, the train that derailed in East Palestine had three people in the train cab, so a two-person crew requirement would not have prevented the accident. It also ignores decades of safe and successful use of the one-man crew in passenger and freight rail systems worldwide. One-person teams have been used successfully in Europe and Canada. In addition, a government mandate requiring a two-person crew weakens the rail industry's ability to compete with less climate-friendly modes of transport, such as trucks and air traffic. It also changes substantive collective bargaining by removing the opportunity for railroads to negotiate in good faith with their employees.

The Railway Safety Act is a misguided bill. Its provisions should be less directive, based on reasonable, science-based safety principles to ensure derailments are minimized. As demonstrated, the freight rail industry has a strong safety record, and new federal regulations must be data-driven and targeted. We should strive to find practical solutions that prioritize both public safety and economic growth.

My prayers go to the community of East Palestine; all affected by this derailment deserve to be well compensated. It is time for Congress to quit the political opportunism and take a stand with the people of East Palestine.

2.6.15 Woke Corporations Are Attacking American Values (2023-06-10 15:47)

Corporations are attacking American values and, in doing so, are hurting their bottom lines. Can corporate leaders be this clueless or does the agenda trump their duties to shareholders and customers?

A few days ago, Target lost [1] \$9 billion in market value after making the mistake of offering products that celebrate the practice of adults chemically and physically maiming impressionable minor children.

Now, why would Target do such a thing?

Did they not internalize the error committed by Bud light when they made the ill-fated mistake – a few weeks ago – to insult its core customer base by partnering with Dylan Mulvaney? Mulvaney is a man who maintains he is a woman, all while offering almost a comic parody of what real women are like. It has been more than 6 weeks and Bud Light still cannot stop the bleeding of losing over \$110 million in sales volume year-to-date.

Surprisingly enough, after the marketing fiasco, it took Bud Light over 2 weeks to respond and take any form of action. That was more than ample time for its competitors to watch, learn and avoid the same pit falls. In fact, thanks to the ill-conceived marketing concept by Bud Light, other brands such as Coors Light and Modelo are especially making the most of the gift they have received. Perhaps their marketing department should call Bud Light and thank them for their respective 23.2 % and 22.2 % growth of the market share.

Now, ask yourself, why would any corporation decide to insult its customer base and expect that base not to change its purchasing habits? After all, isn't that one of the first lessons one learns about running a

business?

Either leadership at some of these corporations has forgotten the simple basics of running a good business or are intentionally making ill-fated decisions based on ideology instead of fiduciary duty. Are they simply genuflecting at political correctness, which seems to be permeating board rooms all over the country?

Do they even teach fiduciary duty in business schools these days? Once held as a marker for everyone in the business world to emulate, fiduciaries took their roles very seriously and with a high standard of care, loyalty, and honesty in providing services to their clients and stakeholders. It was once understood that anyone in a fiduciary role was required to prioritize the interests of the beneficiaries over their own.

Many of these corporations take their dominance of their respective market for granted. It only takes a quick study of history to know many corporations that once were at the apogee of the market are either irrelevant or non-existent. All simply because they failed to adjust to the needs of the market and consumers. It appears some of these corporations are either ignorant of this fact or too willing to pay whatever price it may cost them all in the name of bowing down to political correctness.

A number of other corporations have stepped into the proverbial quicksand. In 2021, Major League Baseball (MLB) took a misguided stand against Georgia election integrity legislation that mandated voter identification. Voter ID is one of the most popular forms of voter protection in the U.S. MLB's protest against the bill included the decision to move the MLB All-Star game out of Atlanta. The Job Creators Network sued Major League Baseball and they were joined by former Attorney General Edwin Meese III and the [2]American Constitutional Rights Union, of which he is a member of the Board, with [3]a hard-hitting amicus brief supporting Job Creators Network in their lawsuit. I also sit as a member of the policy board of ACRU.

The move caused major economic consequences to the greater Atlanta community. This led to complaints that Major League Baseball was not representing the interests of its owners as it participated in political cancel culture and appeared to do the bidding of leftist activists, such as Stacey Abrams, who maintained that measures such as voter identification are racist. The backlash against MLB was swift, severe, and long lasting.

Disney also paid a price in 2022 for taking a stance against [4]Florida's Parental Rights in Education Act? Perhaps this could explain their [5]recent woes across various segments of the market. It certainly led to Disney losing some perks in Florida laws that had benefited the company for decades.

These corporations and others would be wise to pay heed to the warning signs lest they fall into the same trap that has ensnared others before them.

Millions of Americans are watching you. "Go woke. Go Broke."

1. <https://nypost.com/2023/05/25/target-loses-8b-in-week-since-boycott-calls-over-pride-collection/>
2. <https://theacru.org/>
3. <https://theacru.org/2021/06/07/attorney-general-edwin-meese-iii-and-acru-file-amicus-brief-job-creators-network-v-major-league-baseball/>
4. <https://www.businessinsider.com/disney-desantis-feud-timeline-parental-rights-education-florida-2023-4?op=1>
5. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tonifitzgerald/2023/05/10/record-decline-why-disney-lost-another-4-million-subscribers/?sh=3dc99ff77963>

2.6.16 How Biden's 2024 Campaign Will Look Different Than 2020 (2023-06-10 15:52)

President Joe Biden's 2024 presidential campaign is expected to look entirely different from his 2020 run since he no longer will have the safety of Covid mandates to keep him hidden, forcing him to do in-person talking events.

In 2020, Covid-19 was in full swing, allowing Democrats to hide Biden in his basement and dodge the possibility that the 80-year-old would expose the Left's radical agenda.

However, with the China virus no longer a threat to the country, Biden will have no excuse for why he can't hit the campaign trail and talk in front of thousands— or his case, hundreds— of people during rallies.

Earning the name "Basement Biden" in 2020, the President conducted virtual pre-recorded interviews, fundraisers, and speaking events ensuring there were no slip-ups as the country watched.

Last week, Biden couldn't get through one day without making a mockery of the U.S.

While walking across a stage, he fell flat on his face and bumped his head while exiting Marine One.

Additionally, "The Federalist" editor Mollie Hemingway pointed out that Democrats have other tricks to secure enough votes: ballot harvesting.

She argued that Biden could win the presidential race again even if the Democratic Party hides him away due to how they run elections.

"In large part, because we no longer run elections the same way, and Democrats have done a very good job of making sure that regardless of what the opinion is of the people, they get ballots from the appropriate people into the ballot box," Hemingway stated.

Democrats could rely heavily on ballot harvesting without sending Biden out in the playing field, avoiding disastrous moments that prove the President is not mentally or physically fit to lead a country another four years.

"As you move to just a ballot harvesting operation, which Democrats have invested quite a bit in for decades, it matters less and less whether people are with you and more about whether they can get ballots associated with named individuals into the ballot box. That's what Democrats will want, the Biden operation, even if they don't want him to say too much on stage," she continued.

On the contrary, former President Trump held massive rallies in front of thousands of supporters nationwide, even throughout the pandemic.

Nothing will stop him from going out and speaking to his supporters. Despite being indicted by the corrupt Left, Trump still plans to hold rallies in the coming weeks.

Biden's re-election campaign is expected to be built around promising to "finish the job he started" to Americans as his approval rating remains well under water. The administration has strongly criticized Trump's, painting him as an extreme threat to the nation.

However, even after the Biden Administration has tried to destroy him, the former President keeps garnering more and more support in defense of the political witch hunt against him.

2.6.17 Why Does the Left Want No Future For Any of Us? (2023-06-10 15:54)

Policies and attitudes on the Left favor having no children or modifying existing children to be unable to breed. The question is why?

Let's look at the accepted wisdom on the Left as it relates to having children or propagation of the human race.

The Left supports unlimited abortion. They have no interest in time-based limits, and one British professor suggested extending the option for an abortion until after birth, where the health of the child could be examined.

The Left supports same-sex marriage. On its own, without some adoption or surrogacy, same-sex couples cannot make offspring.

The Left supports "transitioning," not just in adults but also in children. Surgeries and/or chemicals to effect the supposed change from man to woman or boy to girl and vice versa will all but prevent the person in question from being able to have children.

The Left has pushed a dire end-of-the-world climate crisis theme that has led many young couples to not want to have children, so that their offspring should not suffer in the future inferno/hell that has been promised since the days of Gore.

The Left has not expressed any support for marriage and the traditional family. Black Lives Matter (BLM) specifically said that one of their goals was the destruction of "the nuclear family." They kind of walked that one back but one sees lower levels of marriage and higher levels of divorce in younger generations.

The Left, until it left women in the dust for trans guys, always supported women working and advancing professionally. In every Western country where women go for advanced education and professional fulfillment, numbers of births per woman are well under replacement levels of 2.1. Having a family was generally considered an impediment to career advancement.

Most ideological movements focus not only on the here-and-now but also plan on propagating so as to continue the program. The Nazis famously had hotels where they mated good Aryan soldiers with chosen women to make babies so as to ensure the future of the German race. But with the Left, we see that many of their policies lead individuals to either not have children, not to want to have children, or not be able to have children. The missing generations are supposed to be supplied by generally illegal immigrants. For Europe, the future workers not supplied by the locals come primarily from Turkey and the Middle East, while in the US millions of illegal immigrants from Mexico and points further south make up for the lack of American babies.

So why do Left-leaning people not want to have kids and for others not to have kids? On the one hand, their focus is on the individual—a woman's body is her responsibility, so she alone can decide whenever she wishes to have an abortion. The same argument would

be made about gay marriage and trying to push boys to be girls: this person has needs, and those needs outweigh all other considerations. But what about the future? If gay couples cannot reproduce and many women choose abortion over letting a child be born, where will we have future Americans to run the country? Apparently, that thought does not reach a level of consciousness for Democratic and left-leaning policy makers. One has to remember that the Biblical command to “be fruitful and multiply” no doubt rubs non-religious Left-leaning thinkers the wrong way. One blaspheming fellow at Davos claimed that the Creator was “dead” and now the effort was in “getting rid of the body.” Since child birth and child rearing are so closely tied with religious commandments and lifestyle, it would be no surprise that Left-focused policies would encourage not having children. Throw in many MSM articles about how much money one saves by not bringing a baby into the world or how much a carbon footprint is reduced or how much more freedom to do whatever you want there is when there are no diapers to change at 3 in the morning—and the pull of not having children becomes stronger and stronger.

In previous, more religious generations, having children was considered a sacred obligation. The expenses, worries, loss of sleep, and end of personal time, were all worth the joy of bringing a new life into the world. Most of what we as humans do is to fashion one thing into another. One can take bauxite from a mine and make it into an aluminum ingot, and from there it can become part of a plane or a window frame or beer can. On the other hand, bringing a new life into the world is the closest that we can come to being like G-d, the Creator of everything. There is no greater joy than in adding a new family member and no greater reward in watching a child grow up to become a responsible member of the society in which he or she lives. The Left does not want any of this. They support policies that all but prevent future generations from being born. “Just bring them in from other countries!” Their nihilist approach is the reason that they are insistent on access to your children—they don’t want anyone to bring more generations into this supposedly overcrowded world. The fight is not just over tax rates or mileage requirements for new cars; rather, the fight is for the future of the United States. Part of the fight is at the ballot box; the more important part is at the home—bringing up children to be able to succeed in society and bring up their own children.

2.6.18 Who Do the Dems Replace Biden With? (2023-06-10 15:57)

Since allegedly getting elected president, Joe Biden has gotten his ancient behind kicked by the Taliban, by Kevin McCarthy, and by a random USAF sandbag to name just a few of the groups, individuals, and inanimate objects that have bested the worst president since Jimmy Carter. This guy is not well. Some might call him senile. Some might call him dumb. Some might call him a corrupt pervert. And some might call that list a good start.

He mumbles that he's running, but it is not assured that Biden will be on the ballot in November 2024. There is precedent for a sitting president not being present at the end of the race. LBJ was running, but he got humiliated in the primaries early 1968 and dropped out. Now, Let's Go Brandon is no Lyndon Baines Johnson. The Delaware Dipwad has less dignity than the guy who made his aides talk to him while he was [1]on the crapper.

As long as Bididdler is staggering along being Weekend At Bernie's'd by his wife the doctor, and a bunch of real doctors, he will be the Democrats' nominee. There's not going to be a coup. There's not going to be a rebellion, even if the GOP manage to nominate someone who is not a mortal lock on defeat. There is no council of wise men that will convene, realize that this whole charade is ridiculous and that this guy belongs in a home, and anoint some less feckless candidate – partially because there's no consensus on who the replacement might be and partially because a council of wise men assumes their gender and is sexist and wisdom would probably be labeled "white supremacy" by the nincompoops of pallor who form the core of the Democrat Party.

They

will run Biden if they can. Sure, he's a mental defective, but he'd fare no worse than Diane Feinstein or Ogre Fetterman in a round peg-square hole competition. The Democrats can live with an avatar-in-chief. And they will. The fact is that the Democrats will nominate Hunter's Daddy in 2024 barring the machinations of fate. But fate may have other plans. He could break his hip. He could get sick. Let's not be morbid, but when you're with a guy his age you need to short his actuarial chances. The fact is that fate might take him out of the equation, and then what the hell do the Democrats do?

I hope they panic and tear themselves apart.

So,

who rides in as their White Knight, understanding that the “white” and “knight” parts are both terrible for a number of reasons? The most fearsome candidate is [2]Michelle Obama, but she pretty clearly has no interest in doing this job. Or any job. Neither does Bernie Sanders – the communist will not be adding the White House to his long list of mansions. Maybe they would defrost Hillary Clinton, but the fact that we rarely see her anymore tells us that she’s not doing so great either. Felonia Milhous von Pantsuit would be 77 in 2024, and remember how seven years ago she had to be scooped up and loaded into an SUV after [3]falling over from the strain of standing upright for a minute? At least we’ve dodged that nagging, bitter bullet – unlike Vince Foster.

I kid, I kid. No really, I kid. I have a lot to live for.

Who else might take Crusty’s place?

Well,

in a grievous oversight, the Founders did not impose an IQ test for the office of vice-president, so if Joe pops smoke then [4]Kacklin’ Kamala inherits the job. She would insist that it is her right to keep it and assume the 2024 nomination, but – not to put too fine a point on it – everyone hates her and thinks she’s a borderline [5]clinical idiot plus a total embarrassment. And that’s just her staff.

Exactly

who is going to get swooped up into the vortex of Kamalamania? Her weirdo husband? No one likes her. No one respects her. No one wants her. And again, that’s just her staff.

But we know that gross incompetence is no barrier to a successful Democrat candidacy, so she could still be in the running if she inspired fear in her competitors instead of loathing. They look at her and, instead of trembling at her wrath, they start thinking about how they would re-do the Oval Office. No one is afraid of her. She would have to go out and take the nomination, which means convincing the Democrat base to support her. She tried that once, before she ended up botching the vice-presidency – you almost have to try to dumb enough to screw up a job that requires literally nothing but perfect attendance and not forgetting to breathe. The Democrat primary voters gave her about 1 % of the vote – she’s flirting with Asa Hutchinson territory. They were too kind.

No, her competitors will smell weakness and start circling her like wolves following the buffalo with a limp.

Some

kind of already are. Gavin Newsom (D-Contingency) has been running a shadow campaign for a year now just in case Faily McFailure falls out. He's going all around the country telling other governors how they should run their states, and they are taking his advice, in a way. They see what Gov. Hairstyle has done in the Golden State and do the opposite. Gavin is good-looking and dumb, so he's got that Kennedy thing going (the actual Kennedy in the race is a non-player – he's too weird even for the Dems). Still, picking him sets up a race between himself and Trump – call that a wash – or DeSantis, a guy who is running a successful state. Gavin offers the country the chance to make all of America modern California, which is as appealing a prospect as taking a bite from some San Francisco hobo's half-eaten hepatitis and crank burrito.

There is Pete Buttigieg, who is very impressive to Pete Buttigieg. His unspoken premise is that all the jobs he previously had and failed at – mayor, transportation secretary, Alfred E. Neuman doppelgänger – have prepared him to fail as president. That's certainly correct, but it's not a selling point. Moreover, he's got this Teen Woke Scold vibe, and by 2024 the wokeness backlash might be in full effect. "Roads are racist" might once again be seen as being just as transcendently stupid a concept as it objectively is.

Who

else? Well, there are some governors who might take a shot. Josh Shapiro in Pennsylvania is popular and comes from a key battleground state. Him being the Democrat nominee might be awkward, considering that so many of his parties leading lights yearn for the annihilation of the world's sole Jewish nation. He does have the advantage of having a reputation of not being a total incompetent, though PA is far from a finely-tuned machine. But he is still stuck with the albatross that is all the Democrat nonsense he has to genuflect to, stuff that normal Americans are increasingly rejecting. It's unclear whether he (or anyone) can pull off a Sista Soljah moment by speaking some Democrat pagan blasphemy like "Crime is bad" or "Maybe men dressed as women should not be twerking in front of kindergartners."

That's

the challenge for the Dem "moderates." There are no Dem moderates, not if they drink the commie Kool-Aid, and if you don't take a big gulp the pinko caucus will destroy you. That's why Governor Jarad Polis of Colorado is problematic. His selling point is also that he's not quite

as left as the rest of the Dems, but he's still pretty left. His state reeks of dope and is full of bums. America is getting sick of nonsense, and the problem for any Democrat is that the Democrat Party platform is all nonsense. There's now a new name for moderate Democrats – squish Republicans. Every other Democrat is a damn commie.

That's about the extent of the Democrat bench. The problem with keeping a gerontocracy in power for a couple decades past its sell-by date is that you don't build a bench. They built a sick bed. A lot of potential candidates got tired of waiting for guys like Biden to take their final tumble and went off to mess up things in academia or the private sector. That's why if something happens to Grandpa Badfinger, the Democrats will have to belly up to a smorgasbord of mediocrity and dig in.

1. <https://knowledgenuts.com/lyndon-johnson-held-meetings-on-the-toilet/>
 2. <https://townhall.com/columnists/kurtschlichter/2023/05/01/the-michelle-obama-nightmare-scenario-n2622638>
 3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se6Pr0_PrMA
 4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dr3tRna3t0U>
 5. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/moron-idiot-imbecile-offensive-history>
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2.6.19 Is Russia's War on Ukraine a Global War? (2023-06-10 16:21)

Russia's war against Ukraine is a regional war with global implications. In the struggle for global opinion "the West" is failing in many among the diverse set of nations labeled the "Global South." Even in many countries that voted in favor of Ukraine at the UN General Assembly, the narratives on the war Russia and its sidekick China are peddling find a sympathetic ear.

This should not come as a surprise given these countries are united by one thing: the view that "the West" and especially the United States and NATO have little credibility. In each case it is a different mixed bag of ideology, economic interests, dependencies, geopolitical concerns, and general rejection of sanctions as an instrument that leads them to not criticize or even side with Russia.

Moral indignation is not a very effective response. Rather, Europeans need to invest more in dealing with the global economic fallout of Russia's war and in better countering Russian and Chinese propaganda. Rather than framing the war as struggle of democracy versus autocracy, they should make defending sovereignty and territorial integrity and going against Russian imperialism and colonialism the priority. If Europeans are self-critical of their own track record on these, they will be more convincing.

Jędrzej CzerepHead of the Middle East and Africa programme at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)

A simple cartoon scene is being reproduced all over Burkina Faso's social media. Two tables are being displayed: a long line of donors queue to the first one, with a Ukrainian flag and a banner reading "6 months of war"; the second table, with a Burkinabe flag and "6 years of terrorism" banner doesn't attract anyone.

In Congo you can see the same cartoon but with a Congolese flag instead of a Burkinabe flag, and so on.

It tells us something.

Before expecting people from Africa or the Arab World to take up Ukraine's case as theirs, we must ask ourselves if we are ready to apply the same decisiveness in defense of human life and standards everywhere. If we fail the most lively and resilient pro-democracy movement in the world today—the Sudanese one—by imposing a Minsk-like settlement that only rewards the aggressor (the junta in Sudan's case), its activists won't be eager to express solidarity with Ukraine anymore.

Here is the key to explain Ukraine's and the West's inability to win outright support in the Global South. Russian arguments, as misleading as they might be, fall on fertile ground when they refer to a critique of the unipolar world or Western double standards. To challenge pro-Russian voices, one would risk being seen as going against some of the legitimate and prevalent local concerns. That keeps potential sympathizers silent. Like it or not, looking from Yemen to Mozambique, the Ukraine war doesn't seem that unique and transformative as it does looking from the West.

Marta DassùSenior advisor for Europe at The Aspen Institute

No, this is not a global war: many of so-called neutral countries, including India and South Africa, do not see it as their "own" war—but rather as a war between Russia and the West being waged in Ukraine.

And yet, some of its repercussions are indeed global: food and energy security, the future of the rules-based international order. What could still turn the Russian invasion of Ukraine into a global war is the China variable: if Beijing were to intervene with arms deliveries to Russia, then the current conflict would morph into a test of strength between Western democracies and today's major autocracies. For now, this is not happening and remains unlikely, given the importance China attaches to its relations with the Western economies.

An additional factor limits the spillover potential of this war: most members of the "Global South" simply do not view Russia as important and powerful enough to justify classical forms of "balancing"—which is instead the more immediate concern for the Europeans on a regional scale, being tackled largely by NATO.

In short, the war in Ukraine is not World War III, and there are enough reasons to think it will not evolve into that.

Mamane Bello Garba HimaResearcher at the Laboratory of Studies and Research on Economic Emergence at the University of Abdou Moumouni, Niger

It looks like everything the world experienced at the global level is not a good thing. Indeed, while in February 2022, the world was getting over COVID-19, Russia imposed an unjustified war to the world by unilaterally invading Ukraine.

This is a global war because as with every geopolitical bad decision, the world bears the burden: food insecurity, energy crisis, and so on. Unfortunately, for now, third parties—the EU, the United States, and China, for example—are divided on how the war should end: winners versus losers or those looking for peace?

In the Sahel, there is a perception that Europe's current position on this war amounts to a double standard. Indeed, when the United States invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, war tanks or funds were provided not to those countries' victims but to the invader.

For their own future world leadership, European governments should build their policies and positions on a genuine base—not necessarily one of a U.S. vision. Regarding this war in Ukraine, the EU should make a clear distinction between the votes at the UN General Assembly from its allies in the Sahel, and the public perception in the Sahel.

Nicholas Karides
Director of the Institute for Mass Media at the Universitas Foundation, Cyprus

Yes. Not just in terms of the growing engagement of parties external to the conflict, or the scope and repercussions of the war itself, but for a key factor that both weaponizes and torments parts of the globe often without their knowledge: the global information war.

The war is being fought on the ground, where people are dying and being displaced. But it is also being fought relentlessly in our media. Long before boots had landed on the ground, long before Crimea was annexed, Russia with customary military ruthlessness confused, unsettled, and divided public opinion worldwide. It infiltrated with soldierly precision the tech platforms owned by the West. Its troll mercenaries captured key outposts from where they surveyed and targeted the globe's information intake, stifling and gunning down any resistance on the planet's public information squares with propaganda and noise. The platforms proved incapable and were often unwilling to intercept the Kremlin's distortionary attacks.

Well before Ukraine was calling for tanks on the battlefields, scholars and experts had been calling for fact-checkers on the big tech vistas. It is a global war because Russia's proxy views are now embedded worldwide, booby-trapping our entire information sphere.

Andrei Kolesnikov
Senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

What is happening is a global conflict. This is not simply because Putin himself declared the invasion of Ukraine a defensive war against the collective West. But because Putin's war destroyed the world order, the rules that had been polished for decades and demolished the achievements of Russia itself in entering the concert of civilized countries. Everything that had been built for years collapsed in one day.

This conflict is so large-scale that it changes not only trade, economics, logistics, and politics, but also the psychology and anthropology of entire nations. The Ukrainians have acquired their own identity: a positive one, a European one, and a negative one, based on the aversion to everything Russian.

The Russians—not all of them, but many—who are returning in terms of political culture and amorality to archaic imperialism, have not found their identity, but have lost it. Russia is

so significant that this process has global meaning and affects the whole world—its attitudes and behavior. And the conflict also shows who is for humanism, who is ready to profit from war or make compromises, because for some reason these countries need a good relationship with Putin.

Gilles Olakounle YabiPresident of WATHI, Senegal

The war has a large and still not fully determined impact on all the continents and so it can be considered a global war. Beyond the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and blatant breach of international law, there are also many geopolitical dimensions that cannot be ignored: rivalry between Western powers/NATO and Russia, competition between the United States and China for global leadership in the future, the Western alliance versus BRICS.

It is clear that this is not only about defending Ukraine's sovereignty, its borders, and its peoples. The diverse positions of the countries in Africa as in Asia and Latin America on the war do include consideration of their existing diplomatic relations and security cooperation with Russia, and of the global geopolitical and economic implications for their own security and economic interests.

So, the fact that the war is a global war does not mean that the reading of the war is the same from one place to another, and that the choice of each country to vote in one way or another, or to abstain from voting a UN resolution on the war, is not guided by a variety of considerations and the perception of their national interests, beyond respect for principles and values.

Martin PlautSenior research fellow at the University of London's Institute of Commonwealth Studies

The Ukraine war is not a global war, but it clearly has global implications. For many—particularly in the global South—other issues, including climate change and their own conflicts, are far more important. It is for this reason that they resent being “asked to take sides” despite having signed up to the UN Charter which requires all members to defend the territorial integrity of all nations.

Beyond this, their response reflects the increasingly effective use of soft power by China and Russia, as well as hard power exerted by both states either via the Wagner group or territorial expansion, as seen in Taiwan. This is a complex question not easily responded to with a yes or no answer.

Kristi RaikDeputy director of the International Centre for Defence and Security, Tallinn

Russia's war on Ukraine obviously has strong global implications. Nonetheless it is primarily a war over the European security order, with existential importance especially for European neighbors of Russia but also for the EU and NATO. It is perhaps unavoidable that there are countries in the Global South that see the war differently from the West and avoid taking sides.

Certainly it is not just a matter of communication, that is, Russia having been more effective in spreading its narratives than the West. The interests of, say, India or South Africa are different from Western interests.

The outcome of the war will influence the balance of power between the West and Russia, and the West and China. But even Ukraine's victory won't bring us back to the post-Cold

War era of U.S. hegemony when the liberal rules-based order was at its strongest. What can be saved by Ukraine's victory is a rules-based security order in Europe—an order that will exclude Russia for a long time to come and defend European states against the Russian threat.

The Western focus should stay on working toward Ukraine's victory rather than trying to forge a global consensus on the war. The former is attainable, the latter most probably not.

2.6.20 Biden Admin Confirms China Has Been Spying On the U.S. Through Cuba (2023-06-10 16:27)

The Biden Administration confirmed that China has been spying on the United States from a base in Cuba, calling it an "ongoing issue."

On Saturday, the Biden White House said the Chinese spy base had already been established, adding that the issue was inherited before President Joe Biden took office.

"This is an ongoing issue and not a new development, and the arrangement as characterized in the reporting does not comport with our understanding," an administration official said. "When this administration took office in January 2021, we were briefed on a number of sensitive PRC efforts around the world to expand its overseas logistics, basing, and collection infrastructure globally to allow the [military] to project and sustain military power at a greater distance."

"This effort included the presence of PRC intelligence collection facilities in Cuba," the official continued. "In fact, the PRC conducted an upgrade of its intelligence collection facilities in Cuba in 2019. This is well-documented in the intelligence record."

On Thursday, several outlets reported that China and Cuba reached a secret agreement for China to establish an electronic eavesdropping facility, which would allow Chinese intelligence services to "scoop up electronic communications throughout the southeastern U.S., where many military bases are located, and monitor U.S. ship traffic."

The reports claimed that China had agreed to pay Cuba billions of dollars to build the underground station, with U.S. officials describing the intelligence on the plans as "convincing."

However, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby told reporters that the reports were "inaccurate."

Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio), chair of the House Intelligence Committee, criticized Biden for allowing China to walk all over the U.S.

"President Biden needs to stop ignoring the threat from China," he said in a statement. "In less than 48 hours, officials from the Biden administration have contradicted themselves multiple times about whether or not the Chinese Communist Party is spying on the United States. This is unacceptable."

2.6.21 Rep. Andy Biggs Says Mayorkas Is Intentionally Destroying the U.S. Border (2023-06-10 16:29)

Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz) has vowed to hold the Biden Administration's Department of Homeland Security accountable for the ongoing border crisis wreaking havoc on the U.S.

This week, Biggs questioned former acting homeland security secretary Chad Wolf during a House subcommittee hearing on the DHS' handling of the southern border.

"The U.S. Constitution requires the administration to 'take care that the immigration and border security laws be faithfully executed.' It is clear to me and millions of Americans that the Biden Administration has failed to do so," Wolf said.

Wolf continued to criticize President Joe Biden for deliberately destroying the nation's border, adding that it is the first administration—of either political party—to diminish the border's security knowingly.

Biggs asked Wolf if Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas had violated the law. In response, Wolf said that "new leadership is needed."

"In all candor, the Biden administration is the first administration, of either political party, to deliberately take steps to diminish the security along our southern border." - [1][@ChadFWolf](#) [2][pic.twitter.com/juQFIjSv64](#) — Virginia Allen (@Virginia_Allen5) [3]June 7, 2023

The Republican also questioned Steven Bradbury from The Heritage Foundation if Mayorkas, appointed by Biden, has failed the country as he continues to release tens of thousands of illegal aliens into the U.S. through mass parole.

Citing the Immigration and Nationality Act, Bradbury said, “Yes.”

[4]@RepAndyBiggsAZ questions [5]@Heritage Distinguished Fellow Steven Bradbury on whether DHS Sec. Alejandro Mayorkas has violated the law. [6]pic.twitter.com/1ofxdpFMDO — Virginia Allen (@Virginia_Allen5) [7]June 7, 2023

Biggs

then asked Wolf if the Biden Administration, including Mayorkas, was intentionally violating the law, which he said: “They know exactly what they are doing [in DHS].”

Joseph Edlow, former acting director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, also agreed with Wolf, saying that he doesn’t believe Mayorkas is incompetent in doing his job, rather than his actions are intentional.

Biggs ended his testimony by calling for Mayorkas to be impeached.

“I think it’s long past time for him to be impeached,” [8]@RepAndyBiggsAZ says of DHS Sec. Mayorkas. [9]pic.twitter.com/c9qlhAZdhQ — Virginia Allen (@Virginia_Allen5) [10]June 7, 2023

1. https://twitter.com/ChadFWolf?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
2. <https://t.co/juQFIjSv64>
3. https://twitter.com/Virginia_Allen5/status/1666513109681405952?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. https://twitter.com/RepAndyBiggsAZ?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
5. https://twitter.com/Heritage?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
6. <https://t.co/1ofxdpFMDO>
7. https://twitter.com/Virginia_Allen5/status/1666518692727758848?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
8. https://twitter.com/RepAndyBiggsAZ?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
9. <https://t.co/c9qlhAZdhQ>
10. https://twitter.com/Virginia_Allen5/status/1666521347025936398?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

2.6.22 Democrats Are Horrible People (2023-06-19 13:32)

I’ve had more jobs than most families. That may sound weird, but over the course of my life, I’ve held more than 77

jobs. Most for not very long and many at the same time. When you grow up without a lot of money, work isn't an option; it's a necessity. In the near dozen or so retail jobs I held when I was younger, there were few things I disliked more than inventory day. The store would close early, and you'd have to stay late, scanning everything to see what they had (and what was stolen). It's wildly essential information to the business. It's also wildly important to take an inventory of other things in your life, like, for example, just how horrible Democrats are. If you don't, like Ferris Bueller said, "you could miss it."

Let's start with Barack Obama. The former President likes to think of himself as a statesman but beware. Democrats always declare something they like as the opposite of what it really is. As an aside, a good rule of thumb in life is the louder someone declares themselves to be something, the less likely it is they actually are that thing. Intelligent people don't need to tell everyone they're smart; funny people don't tell everyone how funny they are, honest, loyal, hard-working, etc. If you are something, we'll pick up on it.

Obama

loves himself to the degree that no one can compete. He also leads a life where no one tells him no, at least no one who can make it stick. That, coupled with his general arrogance, empowered him to call South Carolina Senator Tim Scott an "Uncle Tom."

He didn't do

it directly - a skillful bigot has a thesaurus full of ways to convey their hatred with a wink and a nod, and that's exactly what Barack did.

"There's a long history of African-American or other minority candidates within the Republican Party who will validate America and say,

'Everything's great, and we can make it.'" [1]Obama told former campaign manager David Axelrod

of Scott. "And so if a Republican, who may even be sincere in saying,

'I want us all to live together,' doesn't have a plan for how do we

address crippling generational poverty that is a consequence of hundreds of years of racism in this society — and we need to do something about

that — if that candidate is not willing to acknowledge that, again and

again, we've seen discrimination in everything from ... getting a job to

buying a house to how the criminal justice system operates. If

somebody's not proposing, both acknowledging and proposing, elements

that say, 'No, we can't just ignore all that and pretend as if

everything's equal and fair. We actually have to walk the walk and not

just talk the talk.' If they're not doing that, then I think people are

rightly skeptical."

The only people “skeptical” of Tim Scott’s sincerity are the leftists terrified by the prospect of a black conservative catching the attention of the American public. Scott, an actual descendant of slaves (unlike Obama), is the embodiment of the American Dream, as is Obama. The only difference between Scott and Obama is Obama believes he was exceptional in his ability to beat what he declares to be oppression of the “system.” Scott realizes anyone can do it because there is no such thing. The “system” doesn’t know anyone exists, nor does it care any more than the planet cares when you stomp your foot; it simply is. It’s left-wing politicians telling kids they can’t succeed who discourage the attempt and instill defeatism, not the “system.”

As I said, an “inspirational figure” who is actually just a typical Democrat and a horrible person.

We

also have to count the current occupant of the Oval Office among the worst. Joe Biden, known for being inappropriate and the touching and senile sniffing of women and young girls, got himself some side-boob this week from actress Eva Longoria.

No female staffer

wants to be alone with Joe in a secluded area that’s almost as dangerous as being between Chuck Schumer and a camera, as Tara Reade learned the hard way. But Joe doesn’t need to be in private to get his freak on, nor does his wife – whose ex-husband claims started her relationship with Joe while they were still married; happily, he thought (making it adultery) – have to be out of town or even distracted. She knows what she married, and several mansions and a stint in the White House is a small price to pay for a little public humiliation, especially when you know the traditional media won’t ever mention it.

At a White House event, Joe rubbed his hands along the side of the breasts of the actress in full view of the world. Longoria's reaction said it all – she grabbed his hands and removed them as if it were choreographed, or like she'd had a long career in the town where "Me Too" was invented.

Longoria, a vast Democrat fundraiser, and activist, will likely never address this and will undoubtedly campaign for Biden next year – agenda über alles. [2]But it happened; it happened on camera and in front of Joe's wife, and Eva felt violated by it, and not a single one of them will do or say anything about it.

This brings us to the press, who witnessed it all and stayed silent. Who hears the allegations of corruption and refuses to investigate; who sees the evidence of how the Biden family got rich and can't even be bothered to ask a follow-up question if only to disprove the story and make Republicans look bad? They don't do it because, somewhere deep inside, they suspect it's all true, they fear it's all true, and they want to get as much of their agenda rammed through as possible before it all comes crashing down because they cannot longer cover it up. If that means some cities are ruined, or a generation of kids are lost, or just some actress gets violated so an old man can feel giddy inside, so be it.

As I said, Democrats are horrible people. And this ongoing inventory reiterates what else we know: that they're gross on top of it.

1. <https://nypost.com/2023/06/16/tim-scott-hits-back-at-obama-after-race-relations-criticism-democrats-deny-our-progress-to-protect-their-power/>

2. <https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/creepy-joe-strikes-again/>

2.6.23 Dan Crenshaw: Gender Affirming Care Is the 'Hill We Will Die On' (2023-06-19 13:34)

Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-TX) tore into Yale School of Medicine assistant professor Meredith McNamara— a pediatrician with expertise in gender-affirming care— over her support for disfiguring children.

During a House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Crenshaw addressed the "elephant in the room" by asking McNamara about his proposal to remove funding from hospitals that perform surgeries and provide puberty blockers and cross-sex hormone medication to transgender minors.

Crenshaw echoed Republican talking points, calling transgender treatments “barbaric” and the “issue of our time.”

On the contrary, McNamara argued that gender-affirming care for minors is essential for the well-being of their health.

Crenshaw argued against McNamara’s claims, saying that most studies lack evidence of any benefit of transgender procedures for minors.

McNamara then admitted that data is cherry-picked, adding that it is “unscientific and flawed to pick a single study or a single statistic and discuss it in isolation.”

“The British Journal of Medicine looked at 61 systematic reviews with the conclusion that, quote, ‘There is great uncertainty about the effects of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgeries in young people,’” Crenshaw said. “The Journal of the Endocrine Society came up with the same conclusion, even the American Academy of Pediatrics. They all cite the lack of evidence.”

The Republican continued to grill McNamara on the fact that no studies state strong evidence of the benefits of permanent physiological changes regarding gender-affirming care.

In response, the “doctor” refused to cite a study that proves her point.

“You’re not telling me any study, don’t say ‘standards of care,’” Crenshaw stated. “Tell me one.”

“So, um, the standards of care,” McNamara said.

“The standards of care,” Crenshaw questioned. “That’s not a journal; that’s not a study. That’s not an organization. That’s not an institution. You’re just saying words. Name one study.”

However, McNamara failed to name a specific study before Crenshaw’s time was up.

“It is indeed compassionate to stop kids from being permanently physically altered based on little to no evidence that it will improve their underlying mental condition,” Crenshaw concluded

2.6.24 The War on Fatherhood in Secular America (2023-06-19 13:35)

There has never been a time in the history of these United States when there was a greater need for truly genuine Christian fathers than now. Study after study shows that children raised in two parent traditional families have not only a much better chance of success in life, but also see a significant reduction in mental health issues including reduced levels of suicide. The dark days in which we are living cry out for a solid cadre of real men who will stand up and be counted for truth and righteousness — steadfastly taking their rightful position in the family. Men living heroic lives must ultimately be the nuclear family’s protectors from the

forces of evil who would destroy its foundations and that of our nation.

Perhaps, though, the saddest commentary on our national society is the absence of this rare subset of humanity. Some years ago, I was blessed to spend three days in the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola. During that time, I asked the warden about any practical needs that the inmates might have. His initial response was not necessarily surprising for the spring-time of the year as he told me that there was a huge demand for Mothers' Day cards. What was astonishing, though, was his response to my follow up question about the need for Fathers' Day cards when he simply said, "Our men have no need for that type of cards because they have no fathers to send them to." So, in these days when our culture finds itself in such turmoil, it is not too difficult to follow the dots to one of the most serious failures in our American society.

A recent study was done by the nonprofit organization Communio, which suggested that a "collapse in marriage and resident fatherhood is fueling widespread loneliness." Adding to the point, the researchers asserted that "what we are seeing is the net effect of all that is the crisis of loneliness; that the loneliest people walking around in our churches, in our communities, are actually not the elderly or widows. It's men and women in their 30s." This epidemic of loneliness is echoed by an advisory issued by Surgeon General Vivek Murthy on May 3 of this year proclaiming that this phenomena of isolation in the U. S. could be as deadly as smoking.

Their findings also indicated that "of all Sunday church attendees, 80 % across all demographics were raised in a continuously married home with both biological parents." If you connect this data with that of a report by Pew Research Center and the General Social Survey that was published in September showing a surge of adults leaving Christianity to become atheist, agnostic, or "nothing in particular," the reality is even more startling. Clearly this phenomenon of the collapse of resident fathers in the home is at the very heart of the "unravelling of Christianity" in our nation. Even more frightening is the prediction that "the growth of the religious nones is unlikely to stabilize until 25-30 years after married fatherhood stops its decline."

Perhaps the pertinent question should be asked: where have all the fathers gone? For the answer to this most important query, you need to look no further than to the so called "woke Marxist culture" which has declared all-out war on the traditional family because it stands in the way of their sordid concept of the physical world. What better way to create utter chaos in society than by destroying the family structure? What better way to destroy the family structure than by emaciating the familial role of men as fathers? Satan himself is standing gleefully by in the shadows as men are told that masculine Christian leadership in the family must be abolished. The result is that there is not only an increase in loneliness because the traditional roles of men and women have been demolished, but also our culture is being flooded with an unchecked wave of alcohol, illicit drugs, and pornography, along with cheap and often deviant sex. When there are so few real fathers standing in the gap for their families, impenetrable roadblocks are created that prevent real, committed, and loving relationships between men and women and their offspring. To add to this misery, this bill of goods is being sold to even our youngest and most impressionable children even in preschool curriculums and classrooms across America. Ask yourself why the radical left is so ardently pushing all this gobbledygook of deviant misinformation, and you may begin to understand the seriousness of the vicious scheme of destruction now unleashed in our country.

Here is the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Satan's demonic minions are at this

moment trying to load our children onto the train cars that will take them to their ultimate death camp destinations. Only this time, these concentration camps aren't called by the names of Auschwitz, Dachau, Treblinka, Buchenwald, or Ravensbruck. No, these camps are known by other names like pornography, fentanyl, Marxism, sexual deviancies, sex trafficking and atheism. In some sense these destinations are even more deadly than those awful hellholes of Nazi Germany because these are not only designed to bring physical death but spiritual death as well.

Now is the time for all good and decent men to not only come to the aid of their country, but to also stand up and be counted for themselves and their families. Enough of this malaise wrought by the very demons of darkness. The urgency of this hour requires that the real faithful men of America, particularly those of us who call ourselves Christian, adhere to the admonition of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 16:13 when he urges the males in the church in that great city to "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." Our nation, our children, and our families simply cannot wait 25-30 years for us to get our acts straight and begin to live heroically once again. God help the children and our nation if we do not.

2.6.25 If You're White, Self-Defense is No Longer an Option (2023-06-19 13:36)

Self-defense is the right to use reasonable force for the purpose of defending one's own life or the lives of others. Most states allow deadly force in self-defense where the person defending himself reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or grievous bodily harm. As a general matter of law, self-defense is a universally accepted principle in American jurisprudence. Or at least it was until recently.

Several Democratic mayors and prosecutors are sacrificing the right of self-defense in favor of "social justice." Soros-backed prosecutors are looking the other way when it comes to violent behavior but zealously going after anyone who tries to defend himself from assault. Some notable examples have been in the news.

Seventeen-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse killed one man and wounded another as they chased and assaulted him during a violent protest in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Videos filmed at the scene proved it was a case of self-defense. Rittenhouse wrote Leon Wolf in *The Blaze*, "someone who was in legitimate and reasonable fear for their life and trying to survive in a chaotic situation." Nevertheless, Rittenhouse was arrested and charged with first-degree intentional homicide, which carries a life sentence in Wisconsin. He was ultimately vindicated.

In my new book, *The War on Whites*, I describe what happened in St. Louis when a white couple, Mark and Patricia McCloskey, attempted to defend their lives and their home against a Black Lives Matter mob that threatened to kill them. The McCloskeys pointed weapons at the mob, but no shots were fired. Police did not show up to protect the McCloskeys from threats of violence. In spite of a video taken at the scene, the McCloskeys were charged with unlawful use of a weapon, a felony carrying a possible four-year prison sentence. No charges were brought against members of the mob, either for trespassing, destruction of private property, or threatening physical harm.

When Jordan Neely, a large black man with a history of violence, terrorized a New York

City subway car full of frightened passengers, he was taken down in a chokehold by Daniel Penny, a former Marine who happened to be white. Neely died as a result of the encounter. Penny was adamant that what he did was justifiable homicide by self-defense. Instead of Penny receiving a medal for heroism, he was arrested and indicted on a charge of manslaughter. This is an example of how the legal system supports black criminality.

The Soros-backed Manhattan District Attorney, Alvin Bragg, has a record of releasing violent felons and charging citizens like Daniel Penny for lawful acts of self-defense. One of the worst cases involved a bodega owner who killed an armed robber when the robber assaulted him. Bragg charged the owner with second-degree murder before dropping the case. In another incident, a parking valet shot an armed car thief when the thief pulled a gun. Bragg charged the valet with attempted murder, but the charges were later dropped.

When white people are assaulted by blacks, the legal system bends over backward to coddle the black perpetrators. If there is a confrontation between a white person and a black person, said author Ben Shapiro, the Left decrees that the white person must be at fault. Referring to the case of Jordan Neely, Shapiro said, "Neely apparently had a right to threaten people on the subway." Penny did not have the right to self-defense.

In San Bernardino, California, a 21-year-old black man assaulted a white police officer as she was trying to prevent a domestic violence crime. He wrestled the female officer to the ground, punched her in the face, and seized her firearm. He attempted to shoot her in the face but failed only because the gun jammed. The incident was caught on a neighbor's cellphone.

In what should have been an open-and-shut case for the prosecution, the defense lawyer argued that his client was acting in self-defense. "The issue," said the attorney, "was, was the initial detention legal? If it's not, then he's not guilty. He could punch her 100 times, and it wouldn't matter." The jury—incredibly—found the defendant not guilty of attempted murder and other charges. Had the defendant been white and the officer black, there is a reasonable expectation that the verdict would have been different. The self-defense argument was allowed for this black defendant even though a video proved he had attempted to kill a police officer.

Social justice is anything but justice when the right to self-defense is predicated on skin color. In our woke society, social justice is interfering with traditional notions of right and wrong. A white person can be denied the right of self-defense. A black felon can get away with it. Welcome to our brave new world.

2.6.26 Why We Will Lose to China (2023-06-19 13:37)

Let's suppose, for a minute, that DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) is coming to the NBA. What would it look like? Permit me to fantasize a bit to answer the question above. I'm a far left-wing, socialist kook, a multi-gazillionaire who got that way because of free market capitalism. But I believe everybody ought to be equal, except not equal to me, of course, so socialism is the answer for the world. Regardless, I am firmly committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. That is my religion. I believe it, and since I've bought the most powerful government in the world, I'm going to make you believe it, too. If you don't like it, go buy yourself your own government. But it does get a little bit boring being a puppet master to

degenerate, demented, decadent octogenarian politicians, so I decided to branch out. I intend to buy an NBA team. I'm going to locate it in Thailand, and I will name my team the Thailand Ladyboys. DEI, you know. And, because I am totally committed to DEI, that is exactly what my team will be composed of (Ladyboys, etc.). So, since inclusiveness is essential, and I need 12 players on my team, here is who will be on it: two ladyboys, one CCP member, one transgender man (other than ladyboys), a black woman, a white woman, a Hispanic woman, a five-year-old mutilated child, one black man, a migrant (who is illegally in America, of course), an anti-Catholic drag queen nun from California, and a non-binary homeless person of indistinguishable composition. No white men, you say? Well, I've got that covered. I will hire Pete Buttigieg as my coach. He knows as much about basketball as he does about transportation. So, we will have the most diverse, equitable, inclusive roster in the NBA. The new Joe Biden dream team! America's team! Now let me switch to something serious. My team obviously won't win a game (that's not the point). They might draw some customers for a while just to get a few laughs, but an 0-for team doesn't usually make much money. They would, of course, get crushed by every legitimate NBA opponent. They might never even score a point. They will lose, and we all know why they will lose. They will lose because the team was not built to win. I did not choose my basketball players based on merit, ability, and basketball savvy. I chose my players in order to feel good. In order to pat me on the back. In order to show the world I believe in "diversity, equity, and inclusion," my whole franchise goes to Hades in a handbasket because there doesn't exist one qualified player on the entire team. Nobody would expect them to win. They can only be expected to lose. And lose big. Get slaughtered. And eventually, go bankrupt and fold. Despite my gazillions. But again, it isn't about winning. It's about "diversity." And "equity." And "inclusion." That's the new American religion. Now let me switch to serious. No NBA owner would ever do such a stupid, ridiculous thing as building his franchise on DEI. He knows exactly what would happen. He wouldn't win a game. He would lose. Get slaughtered, etc. People would laugh at him and wonder what in the world the idiot was doing. Only Democrats would understand. It would never work in the NBA, and everybody knows it. But Joe Biden (apparently) expects it to win in world affairs and is running the United States government, and even more ominously, the United States military, on the buffoonery of DEI. And obviously, the situation is far more dangerous in government than it is in basketball. Basketball is a game. Government and realpolitik aren't. Nor is war. There are some very evil people on this planet, some of whom have some very big planes, ships, guns, and bombs, and they would love to thrash and destroy the United States. Any semi-intelligent, halfway-competent leader would surround himself with the best people possible, based on their wisdom, knowledge, ability, and character, not on gender, skin color, or sexual preference. And he would strive to recruit the leanest, meanest fighting machine possible that no other country would DARE to threaten for fear of getting obliterated. That is what a capable, rational, non-demented leader would do. He would construct his "team" to win, not get massacred by barbarians. Folks, I guarantee you the Communist Chinese and Russians are not erecting their government and military on "diversity, equity, and inclusion." Xi Jinping doesn't give one royal, rotten fig about climate change or transgenderism and rainbow flags. The only "brave" people he is interested in are those who will fight to the death for his country, not "brave" people who wave their genitals in the faces of children or show their fake breasts at White House receptions. Xi Jinping intends to win, and he is building the best "team" he can in order to do just that. And that is the reason why, someday soon, China is going to kick America's butt. I'm not saying that because I want it to happen; far from it. I'm saying that because of Joe Biden and the Democratic Party. Most of us have enough sense to know what it takes to win against a mighty enemy who hates our guts and wants to destroy us. It won't be easy to defeat a foe like that under ANY circumstances. Still, we sure aren't going to do it if we hand our nation, government, and military over to a bunch of irresponsible,

groveling pansies. Xi Jinping intends to win. Joe Biden couldn't care less if his country gets slaughtered or not. That is evident by what he is doing. DEI instead of MAQ—merit, ability, and quality.

2.6.27 Which Way AI? (2023-06-19 13:41)

The cynic can be forgiven his pessimism because, despite excuses from some left-leaning news outlets (but more on that in a minute), there is a very real concern that AI – promising as it does a growth comparable to the rise of the internet in the mid-90s – could easily become systemically biased against conservatives themselves.

Recognizing this, and no doubt eager not to underestimate AI's potential, Missouri Republican Senator Josh Hawley announced the No Section 230 Immunity for AI Act (if the name doesn't speak volumes, you need to do a little reading) on June 14. Essentially, the legislation would do what it suggests: make companies found complicit in harm as the result of generative AI liable for damages.

It's an important move (although certainly not the only legislation floating out there seeking to control the next big thing), primarily because that sneering Vice article linked above attempts to debunk reports of bias in AI in a way that strains credulity (emphasis mine).

National Review staff writer Nate Hochman wrote the piece after attempting to get OpenAI's chatbot to tell him stories about Biden's corruption or the horrors of drag queens. Conservatives on Twitter then attempted various inputs into ChatGPT to prove just how "woke" the chatbot is. According to these users, ChatGPT would tell people a joke about a man but not a woman, flagged content related to gender, and refused to answer questions about Mohammed. To them, this was proof that AI has gone "woke," and is biased against right-wingers.

Rather, this is all the end result of years of research trying to mitigate bias against minority groups that's already baked into machine learning systems that are trained on, largely, people's conversations online.

Recommended

Son of Far-Left MN Democrat Accused of Killing Five in Deadly Crash
Julio Rosas

It appears Vice's explanation for apparent bias is that the internet doesn't have enough hateful material from which to pull answers that would satisfy conservative requests. Even if one chooses to ignore the implied insult, the suggestion that the internet is somehow lacking in non-progressive content is simply absurd.

And let's talk about OpenAI, the former nonprofit famously co-founded by Elon Musk that developed the ChatGPT chatbot. Is it possible to determine if conservatives' "panic" over AI bias is overwrought?

OpenAI, originally a nonprofit, was started by a batch of tech entrepreneurs including Sam Altman, Reid Hoffman, Greg Brockman, Jessica Livingston, Peter Thiel, and Elon

Musk. The initial investment was hyped to be about \$1 billion; but it was later revealed the organization took in just over \$100 million in donations from its inception in 2015 through 2021.

It has since transitioned, with much fanfare, to a for-profit, leaving Musk at least questioning – in seriously hilarious fashion by using the organization’s own chatbot – if that transition was legal and ethical.

Elon Musk tweeted Saturday a ChatGPT conversation that speculated about the 2019 transition of its creator, OpenAI, from a nonprofit to a for-profit organization. The AI chatbot concluded that, if the for-profit business had used the nonprofit’s resources for the change, it would have been “highly unethical and illegal.”

While the media was focusing on the for-profit transition, they failed to take much interest in what TechCrunch acknowledges: the tax filings of the nonprofit entity and the behavior of now-CEO Sam Altman tell a revealing story about the way AI programming could be headed.

TechCrunch had this to say in justifying OpenAI’s transition to a for-profit company: “Tax filings seen by TechCrunch indicate the original OpenAI nonprofit retained control over all of its financial assets, totaling tens of millions of dollars, meaning none of its money was used to spin out the organization’s commercial enterprises. The interesting part is where that money ended up: financing Universal Basic Income pilots aiming to fix the very problems OpenAI’s technologies seem to be creating.”

Altman is a big fan of a UBI and has been funding a nonprofit called UBI Charitable, which carries a mission “to research and deploy Universal Basic Income (UBI) programs — the no-strings-attached payouts scheme that futurists like Altman and Musk believe will be necessary when advances in robotics and AI, similar to those being developed by the two technologists, render many human occupations unprofitable.”

Perhaps it goes without saying, but UBI is not a popular policy among conservatives.

There’s also the fact that the 2020 list of funding from OpenAI reads like a leftist wish-list of activist organizations. The ACLU, SPLC, Equal Justice Initiative, and The Tides Foundation, among others, all make appearances on the 2020 tax filings.

For his part, Altman likes to donate to Democrats, giving \$250K in 2020 to a Biden-supporting Super PAC. He’s also become quite the world traveler, as this very approving piece in a Chinese tech media outlet makes clear.

Altman is truly humble.

According to incomplete statistics from PingWest, Altman has had meeting with a long and sumptuous list of policymakers. This includes European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, UK Prime Minister Sajid Javid, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, Israeli President Isaac Herzog, and UAE Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, among others.

While none of this information proves AI is absolutely headed toward programming bias,

it does start to reveal a pattern. A majority of AI researchers are financed by Big Tech, and Big Tech tends to give almost all of its political donations to Democrats. When you layer on top that AI is already being used in popular editing software like Grammarly – and appears to have a distinct point of view – and that some of tech’s biggest left-leaning funders like Dustin Moskovitz and Sam Bankman-Fried are huge fans of AI’s potential, it’s no wonder conservatives are worried and Republicans are already moving on legislation.

2.6.28 Armed IRS Agents Shut Down Montana Gun Store in a ‘Soviet-style Intimidation’ Raid (2023-06-19 13:44)

You’re not imagining this, folks. Armed federal agents are being weaponized to go after the Democrats’ political enemies, including industries they find disreputable. The liberal media’s echo chamber will work overtime to drown out these stories. They attempted to gaslight us on gas stoves. However, that pales compared to the Russian collusion hoax and how the Department of Justice has become the Democratic National Committee’s Stasi force.

The FBI is out of control, engaging in censorship schemes with social media companies, procuring illegal wiretap warrants, and seems hell-bent on protecting the Biden family even after their sources have compiled incriminating evidence of corruption. So, it’s not far-fetched to hear federal agents raided a Montana gun store, shut it down, and seized sensitive documents about private citizens (via [1]The Blaze):

Rep.

Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.) is demanding answers after he says a group of armed IRS agents raided and temporarily closed a Montana gun shop in Great Falls Wednesday.

"This event is another example of President Biden weaponizing federal agencies to target and harass hardworking Americans for exercising their constitutional rights," Rosendale said in a letter to leaders of the Internal Revenue Service and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Twenty

heavily armed federal agents pulled in behind Highwood Creek Outfitters’ owner Tom Van Hoose as he arrived at his shop Wednesday morning, KRTV reported.

IRS agents confiscated background check forms from the store that contained sensitive personal information about all customers who ever purchased a gun at the shop. The forms do not include financial information, Rosendale said, calling the act an "egregious breach of privacy" that "showed no regard for federal law."

"There is no circumstance in which 4473s would be necessary in an investigation spearheaded by the IRS," Rosendale said in a letter addressed to ATF Director Steven Dettelbach and IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel.

Congressman Rosendale described the incident as an example of "Soviet-style intimidation raids" by the Biden administration to curb Second Amendment rights. And these events come as the IRS plans to hire 87,000 more agents. Meeting that goal might not be smooth, as House Republicans are trying to cut its funding, but that won't stop this administration from trying to shore up this agency. The fact that some of these agents will be armed is also disconcerting. The media has also worked hard to neutralize the narrative that this army of new IRS agents won't be used to target the middle class through audits.

They're coming for us.

1. https://www.theblaze.com/news/highwood-creek-outfitters-atf-irs-gunshop-raid?utm_source=theblaze-breaking&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New-Trending-Story_WEEKE

2.6.29 Fox Fires Producer Who Approved Calling Biden a 'Wannabe Marxist-Leninist Dictator' (2023-06-19 13:47)

Fox News parts ways with the producer responsible for using an on-air headline to refer to President Joe Biden as a "wannabe dictator."

Long-time producer Alexander McCaskil confirmed his exit from the network via a social media post, saying it was the best place he has ever worked.

“It’s been a wild ten years.... the best place I’ve ever worked,” but “the time has come,” McCaskill wrote, adding that he asked Fox “to let me go, and they finally did.”

The Instagram post showed the former producer standing outside of Fox News New York City headquarters carrying a box of belongings. “To all my friends there: I will miss you forever,” he added.

The producer reportedly offered to resign with two weeks’ notice but was told to clean out his desk and leave immediately.

Former Fox News producer Alexander McCaskill, who parted ways with the network for airing the “wannabe dictator” chyron, posted this photo of him leaving Fox offices on his Instagram.

McCaskill was also a longtime producer/editor for Tucker Carlson.<https://t.co/MvjqRMiBORpic.twitter.com/4ebvPhadsy>
— Justin Baragona (@justinbaragona) June 16, 2023

McCaskill previously worked as ex-Fox News host Tucker Carlson’s managing editor. On his latest “Tucker on Twitter” video series, the former host, without naming McCaskill, claimed that after the chyron ran, “the women who run the network panicked.”

“First, they scolded the producer who put the banner on the screen,” Carlson said. “Less than 24 hours after that, he resigned. He had been at Fox for more than a decade. He was considered one of the most capable people in the building.”

Carlson stood by the producer’s decision to label Biden as a dictator following the political prosecution of indicting Former President Trump.

Ep. 4 Wannabe Dictator pic.twitter.com/MDcs5g0gxB
— Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson) June 15, 2023

Earlier this year, McCaskill was named in a lawsuit by former Fox News producer Abby Grossberg, claiming he “belittled female employees.” According to her, Grossberg said the former producer said a separate room where breastfeeding mothers can go to nurse is a “waste of space.”

However, Fox has denied allegations in Grossberg’s lawsuit.

2.6.30 Hey, Leftists, Leave Them Kids Alone (2023-06-19 22:33)

“Give us the child for eight years, and it will be a Bolshevik forever.” — Vladimir Lenin

Perhaps y'all recognize the title of this missive from the Pink Floyd song, "Another Brick in the Wall." The word they used in the song was "teacher," but I prefer to use a very appropriate reference for today, "leftists." We all know that the teachers' unions here in the United States, NEA/AFT, are truly indicative of the leftist moniker, with AFT headed by the notorious Randi Weingarten. The aforementioned quote is from a leading leftist, socialist/Marxist figure, Vladimir Lenin, and is also reflective of the mentality of leftists in America today. Consider the crusade of the left to begin their systemic cultural Marxist indoctrination of our children as early as kindergarten.

We have recently been entertained by the triumvirate of incompetence, Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and Karine Jean-Pierre, who informed us that our children are not our children while explicitly stating that they belong to, well, "all of us." It was the seemingly unscrupulous Terry McAuliffe who openly asserted, during the Virginia gubernatorial debate, that parents have no right to decide what their children are being taught. Just recently, the leftist Southern Poverty Legal Center (SPLC) decreed that a number of parental rights groups be designated as hate groups. We all know that leftist Attorney General, Merrick Garland, designated parents as "domestic terrorists."

Adolf Hitler, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Tse-Tung, and Fidel Castro — all the well-known leftist maniacs we have known and continue to witness — have always made targeting our children one of their objectives, mantra, and priorities. As the wise King Solomon of Israel once stated in Ecclesiastes, "There is nothing new under the sun." So, here we are today, in America of all places, and the leftists are targeting our children, not just for socialist indoctrination, but for the most perverse, deranged, and insidious reasons: sexual exploitation.

Though this emanates from the Democrats, there are those in the Republican Party who are all in for the sexualization of our children and who believe that we should not speak of nor engage in this "culture war." To those members of the "Republican Party," I call you cowards and enablers and ask that you just stay out of the way as we fight for our children. It appears that the modern-day acolytes of the Baal god Moloch

are busy with the intended goal of killing our children in the womb, up to birth, and even after birth and now focused on leading them to mutilate their little bodies and prescribing them dangerous physiological altering drugs, hormonal therapies, and puberty blockers.

[1]



[2]
1290



[3]

x

As well, leftists, and other enablers, are offering up our children to sick, deranged perversions such as men dressed as women openly displaying their genitals. Those parents who submit their children to these acts are the ones who should lose custody, not parents protecting their children from leftist sexual abuse and exploitation, as a recent law in the state of Washington does or proposed legislation in California. I am aware of two parents who have allowed their 15-year-old daughter to rename herself and express that she is now a boy. Not just that, these parents have allowed this 15-year-old daughter to travel alone to Europe with a 21-year-old lesbian, supposedly their daughter's girlfriend. Last time I checked, that was a felony crime for an adult to engage in sexual activity with a minor.

Then again, the leftists no longer refer to such people as pedophiles; they are now MAPS (minor-attracted persons).

But what happens when it is not just the responsible and accountable parents who are fighting back? What happens when it is the children who push back against the leftists?

The story of Marshall Simonds Middle School in Burlington, Massachusetts, is just encouraging, actually phenomenal. It appears that the school wanted the students to honor pride month on June 2nd by wearing rainbow clothing. It seems that there were some kids who didn't conform and instead wore patriotic colors and chanted, "My pronouns are USA," and destroyed pride flags. Boom!

When I was a little boy, my grandpa nicknamed me "Mule" because I was stubborn. Thank God we still have righteously stubborn kids in America. There is no better place for the birth of new Sons and Daughters of Liberty than in Massachusetts.

This pushback did not endear these brave students to the leftists who

demanded subjugation, subservience, and surrender. Some parents, teachers, and school administrators went apoplectic. How dare these little ones disallow their progressive socialist leftist indoctrination! Nancy Bonaserra (which means “good evening” in Italian) is the co-chair of the Burlington Equity Coalition. Her coalition is calling for consequences for these students and urging for more emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Parents of LGBTQ kids want a “teachable moment,” in other words, forced indoctrination. One school board member, Michael Espejo, said that “a bad light has been cast over our town.”

Let’s imagine a different scenario: what if the school had wanted students to participate in a Flag Day ceremony honoring America and wanted them to wear patriotic clothing? Now, what if some students had come to school and wore rainbow flags, chanted “Down with the USA,” and tore down American flags? Yeah, they would be hailed on every doggone leftist media outlet as heroic and probably invited to the White House as well as being given keys to the city.

Hey, leftists, leave the kids alone; I find it unconscionable that the left believes that we are just supposed to lie down and take their absurdities and perversions with no opposition. Then again, the leftists want no opposition. This is the reason they are doing everything possible to make Donald Trump an example to us all.

Americans, real Americans, want to Live Free, and we will not surrender our children and their freedom, their right to freedom of speech and expression.

No one will ever say it better than President Ronald Reagan:

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought

for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States, where men were free."

I will never relent and always fight for freedom for my two daughters, Aubrey and Austen, and for my grandson, Jaxton Bernard, and my future grandchildren. I will never tell them what America was once like. I will tell them of the great culture war when we told the leftists to leave the kids alone and kicked them in the ass! I hope you will enjoy telling the same story to your grandkids.

Steadfast and Loyal

1. <http://s1090.photobucket.com/albums/i377/fb22strikeraptor/?action=view¤t=leninindrag.jpg>
2. <http://s1090.photobucket.com/albums/i377/fb22strikeraptor/?action=view¤t=leninxmas.jpg>
3. <http://s1090.photobucket.com/albums/i377/fb22strikeraptor/?action=view¤t=santa-karl-scaled.png>

2.6.31 When a German Lutheran Pastor Preaches that 'God Is Queer' (2023-06-25 14:04)

"Now is the time to say . . . 'God is queer.'" Who spoke these blasphemous words, and what was the context of the statement?

The words were spoken by Quinton Caesar, a Lutheran pastor in Germany, at the conclusion of the annual gathering of the nation's Protestant (meaning Lutheran) pastors.

The conference theme was "Now it the time," and this was the immediate context of Casear's words (who himself is black, originally from South Africa): "Now is the time to say: 'Black lives always matter.' Now is the time to say: 'God is queer.' Now is the time to say: 'We leave no one to die.' Now is the time to say we send a ship and much more and we welcome people at safe harbors, safer spaces for all."

And how did the crowd of church leaders respond? With sustained applause and shouts of approval, especially for his statement that "God is queer." (Watch the video here.)

Talk about a picture of an apostate church. Talk about a vivid illustration of blasphemy and spiritual blindness. Talk about shouting to the nation, "We are the blind leading the blind! Come follow us into the ditch!"

And how did the Church Assembly respond to his message? The Assembly said, "Quinton Ceasar gave a very personal and emotionally stirring sermon in the service... He denounced

racism and made it clear that many people do not feel safe in the church.”

Ah yes! It was a “very personal and emotionally stirring sermon”! Preach it, brother!

And how did the Assembly respond to the “hateful” comments that Caesar received in response to his message? (I don’t doubt that some of the comments were, indeed, hateful.)

The leadership said, “Nobody has to agree with the statements of the sermons or the elements of the closing services. Exchange and even productive arguments about it are even desired – also among us. But attacks on those who justifiably denounce racism and discrimination in the church lack any form of decency and a culture of debate, they are deeply unchristian. We resolutely oppose this hatred.”

So, the problem was not that an ordained, state-salaried pastor in clerical robes declared that “God is queer.” No, the problem is that people responded with hatred. That’s what must be “resolutely opposed.” That’s what lacks “any form of decency.” That’s what is “deeply unchristian.”



Oh my!

Talk about calling evil good and good evil. Talk about trying to take the speck out of your brother's eye while you have a plank in your own (see Matthew 7:1-5). Talk about deep self-deception.

And do these leaders really think that the main problem most people had with Caesar's message was his denouncing of racism? Hardly. It was the blasphemous pronouncement that provoked most of the ire.

Caesar had also stated that, "God is always on the side of those on the margins, who are unseen or unnamed. And if God is there, then there is our place. Love has never been a mass movement. But I'm an optimist."

So, since God sides with those on the margins, He Himself must be queer. But of course!

Based on this kind of logic, Jesus, who hung out with prostitutes and corrupt tax collectors must Himself have been a whoremonger – and a financially corrupt one at that. That would be an equally sick deduction to make.

Even Germany's far-right party, the AfD, which is far more political than it is Christian, tweeted that "the Evangelical [= Lutheran] Church has completely distanced itself from the Christian faith."

This, of course, is completely true, but there is nothing new here. The State Church, as a whole, has been apostate for many years now. It's just a bit more obvious than before.

No wonder hundreds of thousands of people are leaving these churches every year. No wonder hundreds of church doors are closing and countless church buildings are being sold.

When clergy do not believe that the Bible is really the Word of God, when they no longer preach the gospel, when they themselves do not know God and therefore cannot bring others into His presence, there is no compelling reason for people to attend their services.

What true hope can they offer? What type of life transformation can they promise?

Already in 2018 it was reported that, "Last year saw 660,228 fewer members in Germany's Protestant and Catholic churches" (A major reason that the Roman Catholic Church of Germany is also bleeding members is because of the many sex scandals that have plagued it.)

The real gospel will nourish the hungry and the thirsty and challenge the faithful and committed. Human variations of the gospel are no gospel at all. They promise little and deliver even less. They are devoid of the power of God.

Little wonder, then, that church attendance among free evangelicals – meaning, Protestant Christians who are not part of the State Church – is "much higher."

True Christians want to hear the Word of God. They want to worship Jesus. They want to encounter God.

Consequently, where the Word is being preached (as God's Word, not as some ancient religious document that is similar to other ancient religious texts), when Jesus is being exalted, when people are meeting with God, true Christians, along with non-believing seekers, will come.

In contrast, if they wanted more of this world's philosophy, they would simply stay home.

The truth be told, if this annual State Church conference wanted to be accurate with their theme, with one voice they should have shouted out, "Now is the time to proclaim what has been obvious for decades. We are an apostate church!"

May God give courage to the believing remnant. May He pour out a massive spirit of repentance on this very influential (and very lost) country. May the true church of Germany, in

all its varied forms and expressions, arise.

1. <https://i0.wp.com/i1090.photobucket.com/albums/i377/fb22strikeraptor/leninindrag.jpg>

2.6.32 The Political Left Is Simply Gross (2023-06-25 14:05)

Social media hasn't been around for very long, but the truth of what it has revealed about so many people has been transformative and leads to the basic, but important, question: Did social media inspire people to become awful trolls, or did it just give a megaphone to expose so many people truly horrible?

It's the chicken and the egg and, like that question, the answer doesn't really matter, the end result is what we have to deal with no matter what. But you do have to feel badly for our species sometimes, and a little disgusted that some members of it are capable of being something so gross, such sickening examples of humanity that you have to wonder if it's worth it.

The latest example of this is sad story of the sub crushed by the immense pressure down by the Titanic. People died, people you've never heard of and wouldn't have had they not died tragically. Yet, for reasons known only to them, some human beings (a term I use loosely) have decided the world needs to know they're awful people who deserve being ostracized; a shunning – and deserve any and every bad thing that comes their way.

How do you know families are grieving and things, “What were the political donations of these people?” to determine whether or not you're willing to be a decent human being about it?

That happened over at The New Republic this week. The left-wing birdcage liner is typical of the left, basing their concern for other humans on their political beliefs. Some murder victims don't matter if they can't be used to advance their agenda, for example. Not a lot of interest on the left for the thousands of young black men murdered in Chicago, but all the chips are pushed to the center of the table when a police officer kills someone fighting to get the cop's gun while high as a kite, provided the skin colors of those involved lines up with the progressive food pyramid of victimhood usefulness.

Imagine your boss tells you to look into the political donations of people being impacted by a tragedy; would you do it? Or would you tell your boss you don't see the relevance of this as families are suffering?

Someone called Daniel Strauss didn't stand up for common decency when given that chance this week, or he cooked up the concept himself. How it came to be doesn't really matter as much as an article entitled, “OceanGate CEO Missing in Titanic Sub Had History of Donating to GOP Candidates,” was written by him and published by TNR.

No one knew if they people on the sub were dead or alive, but leftists based their interest and concern for the story on irrelevant sideshows like this and the fact that the passengers

were rich, since it cost about a quarter million dollars each to go there.

Questioning the rationale of going to the bottom of the ocean to look at a rotting shell of an old ship is one thing, implying to an audience that it's ok that these people suffer because their politics is disagreeable to you is something else. There's a time for that, if that's something you're compelled to do, later. Those political records will exist long after the families of those lost deal with their pain, there's no need to add to it for clicks. I'd rather drink hemlock than write a piece dancing on an open grave while people are suffering.

But this is what the left does constantly. When there's a mass shooting, the vultures assume motive, skin color and sexuality of the killer, tweeting and prognosticating their fetishized agenda demands before there's an accurate body count. Then, when the story comes out of how the killer isn't white or isn't straight, the interest wanes quickly and it's like it never happened. Is there a left-wing news organization pushing for the release of the trans-killer in Nashville's manifesto, for example?

Mention Ronald Reagan to a committed leftist and they'll fly off, as if possessed, on a Tourette's tirade about a man who's been dead for more than 20 years and out of office for more than 30. They are angry he existed; they are angry anyone who disagrees with them exists and any level of contempt or disgusting behavior is justified when dealing with people who stand in their way; who won't conform. There is no equivalent on the right - when Jimmy Carter dies, aside from anonymous troll accounts being shocking for its own sake, there will not be grave dancing. National Review will not run a piece on just how horrible he was as President, or as a man, when he passes. They will eventually run pieces on how bad he was, but not in the wake of his death the way the left works.

Maybe we on the right should, but it's just not who we are. We see suffering and seek to help it pass, where the left sees it and wonders how they can use it. When you view tragedy as opportunity you lose your humanity over time. I don't know if it eventually comes back, but I do know that it's gone for activist left and there's nothing about them or how they act that indicates they give a damn about it.

Rate this:

2.6.33 The Really Big Guy Behind The Big Guy (2023-06-30 12:29)

With the back and forth over Trump versus Biden, we have lost sight of the really "Big Guy," the former president who was implicated in the Hillary email scandal and was running the Russia hoax. His name: our first openly Marxist president, Barack Hussein Obama.

In order to accomplish the destruction of Trump personally, the evidence shows that it was Obama, not Hillary or Biden, who launched the Russia-gate probe of Donald J. Trump. Obama was the real security risk and still is.

To make matters worse, in the indictment of Trump, we find that Special Counsel Jack Smith has a wife, Katy Chevingy, listed as a producer for Michelle Obama's 2020 Netflix documentary "Becoming."

This is important since Joel Gilbert has published a book and produced a film about a Michelle Obama run for the presidency in 2024. The film, "MichelleObama2024," has many interesting revelations, including that Michelle worked closely with Weather Underground terrorist Bernardine Dohrn at the law firm Sidley & Austin.

This is very significant.

Before YouTube terminated my channel, eliminating 500 videos from public view, I had analyzed the issue of then-judge Merrick Garland's involvement in a court case brought by the Obama Administration to drop terrorism charges against a communist by the name of Elizabeth Anna Duke. She was a member of a Weather Underground spin-off that specialized in terrorism, including bombing the U.S. Capitol in 1983, and fake IDs. Then-Judge Merrick Garland found no problem with a magistrate who arbitrarily dropped the charges against her, at the request of Obama's Justice Department.

Garland, of course, was nominated to the Supreme Court by Obama and when that failed, Biden made him Attorney General.

We are living through Obama's third term. Which means we have to understand who and what Obama really is.

Joel Gilbert's previous book and film, "Dreams from My Real Father," explored in detail the intimate relationship that Obama had with Frank Marshall Davis, a Communist Party member suspected by the FBI to be a Soviet agent. Obama covered up the true identity of Frank Marshall Davis in his book, Dreams From My Father.

As part of the effort to destroy the opposition to Obama, a Justice Department official under Obama, Jack Smith, communicated with the Obama IRS in an effort to target conservative tea party groups for increasing auditing and criminal prosecutions.

Even in the Hillary email scandal, Obama surfaces as a key player.

Senator Lindsey Graham notes that President Trump is being treated unfairly and asks, "Did the Department of Justice charge Hillary Clinton for the private server she had in her home?" Good question. But the real issue is why Obama had used a pseudonym in his communications, to protect his own identity, and sent over Hillary's private unsecured email server.

What was Obama trying to hide?

In terms of the Russia hoax, we learned from the oversight investigations and the hearings that emails between FBI officials revealed that "POTUS wants to know everything we're doing" and "the White House is running this."

POTUS is Obama.

But where was the investigation of Obama?

Rep. Elise Stefanik was correct when she said, "This criminal abuse of power went all the way up to the Oval Office where President Obama and then Vice-President Joe Biden were

in on it from the very beginning. This was an unlawful attempt by the politicized FBI and DOJ to meddle in our elections.” But it goes deeper than that.

When she says, “The entire false smear was manufactured and paid for by political opponents of Donald Trump,” she is missing one key element – the ultimate source of the disinformation was Russia itself.

As I noted in my column, “The Russians in Russia-gate,” the observations made by Special Counsel John Durham and his staff indicate the FBI’s corruption goes far beyond political bias against former President Trump. The Russians originated the idea that Trump was a Russian agent and provided the “disinformation” in the Steele dossier which drove the FBI investigation of former President Trump and his associates.

But Durham did not draw the logical conclusion that the FBI has been infiltrated by Russian agents and that the agency cannot be reformed until they are exposed and rooted out.

In this context, remember it was National Security Advisor (NSA) Susan Rice’s email, which Rice sent to herself on January 20, 2017, claiming there was a January 5 meeting with Obama, then-Vice President Biden, FBI Director James Comey, and Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates regarding the attempt to frame Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn as a Russian agent.

“President Obama began the conversation by stressing his continued commitment to ensuring that every aspect of this issue is handled by the intelligence and law enforcement communities ‘by the book,’” Rice wrote to herself, referring to the Flynn case.

“The president stressed that he is not asking about, initiating, or instructing anything from a law enforcement perspective. He reiterated that our law enforcement team needs to proceed as it normally would by the book.”

Rice also wrote that Obama “wants to be sure that, as we engage with the incoming team, we are mindful to ascertain if there is any reason that we cannot share information fully as it relates to Russia.”

Commenting on the significance of this unusual email, investigative writer Jack Cashill told me, “Obama reminds me of one of those killer husbands on Dateline NBC. He scrubs the crime scene down so thoroughly that the giveaway is the excess scrubbing, the overwhelming scent of Clorox in the air. The moment he had Susan Rice tell us the Russia investigation was done ‘by the book,’ we knew it wasn’t.”

When I interviewed Cashill about his book, *Unmasking Obama: The Fight to Tell the True Story of a Failed Presidency*, it was deleted by YouTube and, eventually, my entire channel of 500 anti-communist videos was taken down.

Cashill’s book accurately describes Obama’s mentor and father figure Frank Marshall Davis as “a bisexual Stalinist pornographer with a taste for underage sex partners.” The question is whether Davis was Obama’s “real father,” as Joel Gilbert maintains and whether their “playdates” amounted to child abuse. Such abuse could help explain Obama’s anti-American presidency and promise to mount a “Permanent Revolution,” a Marxist term that describes his agenda of “fundamental transformation” of America.

I attempted to put the pieces of the puzzle together in two books, Comrade Obama Unmasked, and Red Star Rising. They tell the story of how Obama came to power and was protected in office by communist operatives in the U.S. intelligence community who were then enlisted in a campaign against President Donald J. Trump.

These books document the logical and inevitable conclusion that the most deeply embedded and covert Russian agent of all in the U.S. Government was not FBI counterintelligence agent Robert Hanssen, who spied for the Soviet Union and then Russia for over 20 years, but Obama himself.

2.6.34 June vs. December (2023-06-30 12:30)

America loves awesome matchups and rivalries. We have seen NFL-Dallas vs. Green Bay, NBA-Lakers vs. Celtics, boxing-Ali vs. Frazier, NCAA College football-Alabama vs. Auburn and Ohio State vs. Michigan, NCAA basketball Kentucky vs. Duke, and NHL-Rangers vs. Islanders. Heck, you even have Alien vs. Predator and Superman vs. Batman. We Americans love rivalries, wearing our team jerseys or colors, and declaring loyalty and allegiance in those hard-fought contests.

In that same light, there is a new rivalry, a new contest, that has grown before our eyes in America. Perhaps some of you recognize it, others may be in the Matrix world and do not . . . but we are now fully engulfed in a culture war in America, and the stakes are far higher than any sporting event, or movie.

The new rivalry can be broken down by analyzing two months in our nation that are six months apart, June and December.

We are now entering the final week of a month that has become a period of high emphasis on individual sexual behavior openly displayed in utter deviancy and hedonistic debauchery. Now there are those putting their hands up, in surrender, and covering their faces, and saying, "Colonel, we should not speak of such things." There are those who believe that I should be intimidated into silence and acquiescence. I will not be, and it appears there are many others now rising up in dissent, even middle schoolers in Massachusetts. What adults do is their choice, but I will not be brow-beaten into some suggestion that I must accept it. Last time I checked, I also have free will and freedom of speech, expression, and religion in this Constitutional Republic.

In doing an assessment of what June has become, you must ask why Christians are told to shut up and be silent in December? December is the month when we celebrate and remember Christmas. "Christ-mas" which translates in Spanish to "Christ more." In the month of June, we see the LGBTQIA+ alphabet soup mafia flag all over the place. Kinda interesting that the radical gay lobby has usurped the Biblical symbol of the rainbow as their colors. It is nice to know that there is a Christian organization fighting to reclaim the rainbow and reiterate its true meaning.

The rainbow flag has been flying at US Embassies all over the world. It was displayed on the White House in apparent violation of the US Flag code. It is being proliferated by our

military, corporations, and retail stores. The flag has been flying at State and local government buildings, airports, and basically everywhere. How interesting that in the month of December, if you try to put up a nativity scene in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, leftists go apoplectic, falling out in rage. They begin to decry the absurdity of Separation of Church and State and religious establishment clause concerns . . . all over a nativity scene. Well, the intent of Jefferson in his letter to the Danbury Baptist Convention of Connecticut was to emphasize that America should never have a head of State, government, or nation, who also professed to be Head of Church over a state-established church. In actuality, Jefferson wanted to protect religious freedoms and liberties which is why people fled England to escape King Henry VIIIth's declaration which led to persecution and prosecution of those who rejected his Church of England.

In this new culture war in America, the progressive socialist left has established its religion. Mind you that religion is man-made dogma and ritual . . . Christianity is a faith. Yes, there are many religions in Christianity, and they possess their respective dogma and practices. The radical gay lobby and the leftists have concocted a dogma that they believe we must subjugate ourselves to, to not is to be a punishable offense. This is why we see leftist states telling parents that they will lose custody of their children if they do not go along with the left's religion of gender dysphoria.

Imagine what would happen if there was a decree that asserted that if parents did not support their children being Christian, they would lose custody?

The leftists tell us we must submit our children to "Drag Queen Story Hour" and have them sit before performances of scantily clad men, dressed as women, displaying their genitals. But, if you are a Christian and want to share Biblical story time with children, such as in the case of Kirk Cameron, you are denied, disparaged, demeaned, and denigrated.

In the month of June, if you do not bow down, genuflect, and face towards Washington, DC, and repeat the word "Pride" several times a day you are a bigot, a hater. Yet in the month of December, you are told not to say "Merry Christmas!" Ya know, that offends people. I like to do it anyway and watch the contorted face on some responses such as "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings" . . . some even respond with "Happy Winter Solstice." Maybe the day will come when you are found not reciting the pride refrain in June or get caught saying "Merry Christmas" in the public square, you will be punished. Such is the new culture war of June vs. December.

Lastly, we have all been introduced to the rather disturbing group called the "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence," and their quite blasphemous behaviors. The left fully accepts this organization, and even the LA Dodgers baseball organization recognized them . . . being an Atlanta Braves fan that's a real rivalry. Perhaps you remember the Little Sisters of the Poor, back during the Obama administration, these real nuns had to go before the US Supreme Court to fight against a government mandate . . . the real violation of the Separation of Church and State.

There is a quote that is attributed to yours truly, "When tolerance becomes a one-way street, it leads to cultural suicide." That is the path we are on with his cultural rivalry between June and December. It will be interesting to see how many Christian flags are flown during December, or nativity scenes at US Embassies worldwide. The lesson of this missive is that we cannot Live Free if we are held under the totalitarian tyranny of the left's declared religion.

While at the same time our true Judeo-Christian faith heritage is under assault.

I am all in for the triumph of the principles and values of December, over the debauchery of June . . . are you?

Steadfast and Loyal!

2.6.35 Fetterman's Approval Rating Reaches Biden-Level Lows (2023-06-30 12:38)

Sen. John Fetterman (D-Penn.) has struggled big time since day one of holding office as a senator due to the aftermath of his stroke.

Since then, the Democrat's approval rating has been drowning and slowly getting deeper underwater. According to a new Quinnipiac poll, Fetterman is falling to President Joe Biden's unpopularity level in their home state of Pennsylvania.

A whopping 50 percent of Keystone State voters disapprove of Fetterman's job performance, while just 39 percent approve. Biden has a worse approval rating in the state, with 57 percent of Pennsylvanians disapproving of his job as president, while only 39 percent support it.

The Democrat has often been accused of being incoherent and mentally unfit to hold a senator position. Comparing him to Biden, Fetterman makes the 80-year-old president seem sensible.

According to Fox News Digital, Fetterman's office has quietly altered the senator's transcribed comments several times to make him sound more cognitively fit.

A Washington Post journalist also admitted to reporting a misleading, "inaccurate" quote provided by Fetterman's office "without checking."

Yesterday I tweeted this quote, provided to me by the Senator's office, without checking it against the video. That was my fault. Though it captured his meaning, I deleted the tweet since some of the words in the quote were inaccurate pic.twitter.com/jkDYr2EU2

— Jeff Stein (@JStein_WaPo) May 17, 2023

Recommended

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Leah Barkoukis

This month, Fetterman faced backlash after struggling to get through a speech while being dressed like a bum, donning his trademark attire of baggy workout shorts and a Carhartt sweatshirt.

He struggled to pronounce words such as "delegation" and "infrastructure" as he made a muddled one-minute statement.

However, Fetterman's office continues to deny claims the senator is mentally unwell and often criticizes critics who bring attention to the Democrat's ongoing issues outside of his

auditory processing problems.

2.6.36 We Might Have Another Smoking Gun in the Biden Corruption Probe (2023-06-30 12:41)

The Hunter Biden laptop is a sordid roadmap to the alleged felonious activities of the Biden family. The many shady deals offering government access for cash are well-documented. The Biden associates from China and Ukraine, the two nations from which the family received mountains of money for unscrupulous ends, also happen to be reported intelligence assets. It's a Candy Land map of corruption and bribery with some pornography added here and there. And one cell phone number caught the eye of reporter John Solomon.

Peter Schweizer of the Government Accountability Institute also highlighted this, noting that Hunter paid for a global cell phone for Joe Biden, who was the "big guy" regarding all these arrangements. Hunter was the person in the meetings setting up these deals, but Joe signed off on them, some of which occurred while he was vice president, one example being the \$5 million bribe he allegedly received from Burisma Holdings in 2015-16.

Twitchy first had the post on this cell phone number, where Solomon decided to call it: Joe Biden reportedly answered it.

John Solomon is an American treasure.

Busts Joe Biden on his secret global burner phone. pic.twitter.com/CfvFnq460t
— Big Fish (@BigFish3000) June 28, 2023

Full clip of @jsolomonReports telling story re: how law enforcement had docs re: Hunter Biden & one of the docs "got leaked" to John w/a phone number, which turns out to be the burner phone used by "Pops" when he was VP, paid for by Hunter's firm. John called the number in 2019 &... pic.twitter.com/IFJw29Dtpc
— Lisa Mei (@TheNotoriousLMC) June 28, 2023

@jsolomonReports called Joe Biden's secret cell phone that Hunter Biden was paying for. "Boy was he shocked... He hung up pretty quickly." □ <https://t.co/WjGonVDRxO>
— Miranda Devine (@mirandadevine) June 28, 2023

A competent investigator would subpoena the cell phone records for that number. <https://t.co/E3mIWet1GF>
— Mark Rooney (@Piper336) June 28, 2023

We don't know how long, but some noted that any investigator worth his or her salt would subpoena these records. It also confirms that the laptop is authentic and not Russian disinformation, which many of us initially knew (via RealClearPolitics):

Recommended

Gorsuch Issues Brutal Takedown of Dissenting Opinion in 303 Creative Case

Leah Barkoukis

PETER SCHWEIZER: It's interesting, what is the line of communications between Hunter

Biden and his business partners and Joe Biden when he's vice president of the United States? It's not the government phone, it's not Joe Biden's personal phone. We know from the laptop that Hunter Biden's business paid for a private phone line that Joe Biden used while he was vice president. It was from AT & T, it was \$300 a month, it was a global phone where you could access somebody anywhere around the world.

We shared that phone number and that account information with people in the House Oversight Committee. My hope is that they if they haven't already, they will subpoena those records because I think it will give an indication on how tight the communication was.

And that may be the phone, for example, that the Ukrainian, the Burisma executive might have used in this allegation that he talked to Joe Biden in recorded conversations.

I would just say one other thing, Maria, as it relates to that sort of shakedown phone call with Henry Zhao that we alluded to, Henry Zhao in 2015 had already sent \$5 million to the Bidens. He was the head of a Harvest Investment firm. And what's interesting is in the correspondence there, Hunter Biden again talks to Zhao in the context of "this is a deal that's important to my family" involving his father.

House Republicans have a mandate to go hard and fast in their investigation of the Biden corruption allegations. We have the FBI's FD-1023 report on the Burisma bribery operation, where a confidential source details recordings of the calls from the co-founder of Burisma Holdings and a ledger of the payments. The tax evasion investigation into Hunter Biden, spearheaded by an IRS task force, was met with heavy resistance from the Justice Department, which swore they weren't intervening. Attorney General Merrick Garland might land himself an impeachment hearing since he claimed that the investigation was unimpeded by the Justice Department, despite Delaware US Attorney David Weiss, who was also investigating Hunter, being blocked from pursuing charges against the crack cocaine addict multiple times.

And now, a secret cell number, and Biden reportedly picked it up? What else is being hidden from us?

2.7 July

2.7.1 Another Busload of Illegal Aliens Arrive In Newsom's Home State (2023-07-03 18:59)

Busloads of illegal aliens arrived in the Democrat-run city of Los Angeles over the weekend as the Biden border crisis continues to plague the country.

According to reports, more than 40 migrants—including 11 children—were bused from Texas immigration facilities following the arrival of

the undocumented immigrants.

The liberal city's government was unaware of a shipment of illegal migrants from South and Central America was unaware.

Los Angeles Democrat Mayor Karen Bass accused Abbott of "using human beings as pawns in his cheap political games."

"Los Angeles is not a city motivated by hate or fear, and we absolutely will not be swayed or moved by petty politicians playing with human lives," Bass said.

Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX) launched a migrant busing program in 2022 to combat the president's open border policies' devastating effects on the U.S.— which has brought deadly drugs such as fentanyl and human trafficking into the nation.

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Texas has bused over 23,500 migrants to sanctuary cities to relieve overrun border towns:

Over 10,100 to DC

Over 8,500 to NYC

Over 3,000 to Chicago

Over 1,700 to Philadelphia

Over 200 to Denver

Over 40 to LA

Texas is taking historic action in response to Biden's border crisis.

— Greg Abbott (@GregAbbott_TX) June 27, 2023

"Texas' small border towns remain overwhelmed and overrun by the thousands of people illegally crossing into Texas from Mexico because of President Biden's refusal to secure the border," Abbott said. "Los Angeles is a major city that migrants seek to go to, particularly now that its city leaders approved its self-declared sanctuary city status."

Abbott has also sent busloads of migrants to other liberal cities such as Washington DC, New York City, Chicago, and Philadelphia. The governor claims more than 23,000 illegal migrants have been bused out of Texas.

Last month, a plane of migrants showed up unannounced in Sacramento. Despite Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-Calif) vowing to welcome illegal immigrants with open arms, the Democrat condemned Republican leaders for sending migrants to his turf.

Tens of thousands of migrants still threaten a humanitarian crisis in the U.S.

Biden officials have touted a decline in migrants crossing into the country illegally. Still, the heaping amount of illegal migrants that

U.S. officials have been tracking in northern Mexico haven't turned back.

Biden's new border asylum policies may have quieted things briefly, but the U.S.- Mexico border is still bursting at the seams.

However, despite harsh backlash from Democrats, Republicans are merely responding to the surge in illegal immigration caused by the Left.

2.7.2 Some of These Reactions to the Affirmative Action Ruling Are Getting Ugly (2023-07-03 18:59)

The reactions to the affirmative action ruling from the Supreme Court were bound to get ugly. It's a cycle of whining we've all come to know from the Left when they don't get their way, and this week was a brutal one for progressives in America. From this ruling on college admissions to Joe Biden not being able to cancel student debt unilaterally, the Left learned that Biden isn't a king.

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How Affirmative Action FAILS minorities — Thomas Sowell pic.twitter.com/rxyb9rV0Od

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) June 29, 2023

NEW — "Harvard and UNC's admissions programs...violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment..." pic.twitter.com/gGkJnvZUOL

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) June 29, 2023

While liberal America's initial reactions to the affirmative action ruling will undoubtedly be centered on how Justice Clarence Thomas is evil, how we're veering back toward pre-Civil War times, how the GOP is racist, and how the Supreme Court is illegitimate because they handed down a decision we didn't like; it's children's hour. But a nasty war within America's minority communities is about to erupt between blacks and Asians. It's the issue that splinters these voting blocs, and it's best to let these two sides duke it out, vent, and take swings at one another because it won't be pretty. And yes, some Asian progressives will hurl grenades into their own tent, accusing 'Fellow Yellows' of siding with white supremacy if they agree with the Court's decision.

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Congrats on screwing over other people of color, ma'am! (Particularly those whose efforts in civil rights paved the way for your family to come to America!) [1]<https://t.co/bikNjzzAsL>

— Soledad O'Brien (@soledadobrien) July 1, 2023

Can't wait until she reads that you gladly carried the water for white supremacy and stabbed the folks in the back whose people fought diligently for Asian American rights in America. [2]<https://t.co/JA1iTp6A6I>

— Jemele Hill (@jemelehill) July 1, 2023

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Jemele Hill's definition of "equality" means Asians on average get -140 penalty on the SATs and her own children gets +310 points on the SATs.

Asians don't owe you sh*t.

Equality means equality. [3]<https://t.co/IH8j5yY2Wf> pic.twitter.com/ZN1VS9atIM

— Asians Against Wokeness (@AZNsAgainstWoke) July 2, 2023

Sophia Chang speaks on Affirmative Action. A lot of Asians don't agree with this ruling. pic.twitter.com/gQXFjcaekj

— Ms. Real Marie (@real_marie) July 1, 2023

Patrick your Brown Asians are in fact colorists. Clean your own house first.

— Ms. Real Marie (@real_marie) July 1, 2023

You're racist for thinking this is discrimination Patrick. Let me guess you support Nikki Haley. Good job.

— Ms. Real Marie (@real_marie) July 1, 2023

She's saying fellow yellows because... Well you take a look at who filed the lawsuit. Go be politically correct elsewhere because brown Asians are anti Black too.

— Ms. Real Marie (@real_marie) July 1, 2023

pic.twitter.com/2L5Gfr0JEC

— [redacted] (@shiziah303) July 1, 2023

Someone has hacked your account and is publicly endorsing racial discrimination.

— Charles C. W. Cooke (@charlescwcooke) July 1, 2023

This literally makes no sense... Asians were the ones being discriminated against. She's not screwing anybody over by sticking up for her own right. You are just trying to screw her over for the benefit of the minority you prefer.

Which is... you guessed it... Racism!

— Viva Frei (@thevivafrei) July 1, 2023

Yeah! If you REALLY cared about America, you'd let less qualified people steal opportunities from your children who worked hard and sacrificed and achieved. After all- the civil rights movement was all about judging people based on skin color and not on who and what they are.....

— Brandon Straka (@BrandonStraka) July 1, 2023

Yeah, it's about to get nasty. Very nasty. Remember, 'Stop Asian Hate,' anyone?

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Liberals: "Stop Asian hate!"

Supreme Court rules Harvard can't systemically discriminate against Asians in admissions

Liberals: "No! Not like that!"

— Greg Price (@greg_price11) June 29, 2023

1. <https://t.co/bikNjzzAsL>

2. <https://t.co/JA1iTp6A6I>

3. <https://t.co/lH8j5yY2Wf>

2.7.3 Here's One Interesting Aspect About the Failed Anti-Putin Coup (2023-07-03 19:00)

There's a ton of palace intrigue about the anti-Putin coup last weekend. It lasted 48 hours before it stopped, though not because of anything Vladimir Putin did on his part. He allegedly fled Moscow and had whatever security forces prepared for the city's defense. Arguably the capital hadn't been this spooked since Operation Barbarossa.

With Russia's military at with Ukraine, this would be the opportune time to launch a coup, and Yevgeny Prigozhin decided to roll the dice on June 23. And some of Russia's top generals and internal security agencies knew it was coming. So, was it a staged coup or an actual one that failed to succeed due to a lack of manpower? The argument for the deafening silence from Putin's officials who were privy to this mutiny could cut either way: they wanted Putin gone and said nothing, or knew it was a theatrical production (via [1]NYT):

A senior Russian general had advance knowledge of Yevgeny Prigozhin's plans to rebel against Russia's military leadership, according to U.S. officials briefed on American intelligence on the matter, which has prompted questions about what support the mercenary leader had inside the top ranks.

The officials said they are trying to learn if Gen. Sergei Surovikin, the former top Russian commander in Ukraine, helped plan Mr. Prigozhin's actions last weekend, which posed the most dramatic threat to President Vladimir V. Putin in his 23 years in power.

General Surovikin is a respected military leader who helped shore up defenses across the battle lines after Ukraine's counteroffensive last year, analysts say. He was replaced as the top commander in January but retained influence in running war operations and remains popular among

the troops.

American officials also said there are signs that other Russian generals may also have supported Mr. Prigozhin's attempt to change the leadership of the Defense Ministry by force. Current and former U.S. officials said Mr. Prigozhin would not have launched his uprising unless he believed that others in positions of power would come to his aid.

If General Surovikin was involved in last weekend's events, it would be the latest sign of the infighting that has characterized Russia's military leadership since the start of Mr. Putin's war in Ukraine and could signal a wider fracture between supporters of Mr. Prigozhin and Mr. Putin's two senior military advisers: Sergei K. Shoigu, the minister of defense, and Gen. Valery V. Gerasimov, the chief of general staff.

Mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin planned to capture Russia's military leadership as part of last weekend's mutiny, Western officials said, and he accelerated his plans after the country's domestic intelligence agency became aware of the plot.

The plot's premature launch was among the factors that could explain its ultimate failure after 36 hours, when Prigozhin called off an armed march on Moscow that had initially faced little resistance.

Prigozhin originally intended to capture Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Gen. Valery Gerasimov, the chief of Russia's general staff, during a visit to a southern region that borders Ukraine that the two

were planning. But the Federal Security Service, or FSB, found out about the plan two days before it was to be executed, according to Western officials.

Gen. Viktor Zolotov, commander of the National Guard of Russia, a domestic military force that reports directly to President Vladimir Putin, also said authorities knew about Prigozhin's intentions before he launched his attempt.

"Specific leaks about preparations for a rebellion that would begin between June 22-25 were leaked from Prigozhin's camp," Zolotov told state media on Tuesday.

Western intelligence agencies also found out early about the plans by Prigozhin, Putin's former confidant, by analyzing electronic communications intercepts and satellite imagery, according to a person familiar with the findings. Western officials said they believe the original plot had a good chance of success but failed after the conspiracy was leaked, forcing Prigozhin to improvise an alternative plan.

It's Russia, folks. It's secretive to all hell, and we might never know if this rebellion was real. Maybe we'll know if Prigozhin turns dead in the next few months.

As we've covered, Prigozhin isn't a military man. He's a jack of all trades, owning various catering businesses and earning the nickname "Putin's chef." He also has dabbled in the technology industries; some of his companies executed Kremlin-supported propaganda efforts. And he also commanded the Wagner Group, a reported 25,000-man mercenary army.

This force marched from southern Russia, took over some cities, and came less than 200 miles from Moscow. Prigozhin probably didn't have enough troops to take over the city, so he ordered a withdrawal order on June 24.

The mutiny was initially reported to be over the alleged attack on his forces by Russian military units and the lies used to justify the war in Ukraine. He cloaked his rebellion as a righteous crusade against Russia's military leadership. However, it was later reported that he was upset that his forces would be absorbed into the Russian military. He was later granted asylum in Belarus and will not be charged for the insurrection.

Rate this:

1. https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/27/us/politics/russian-general-prigozhin-rebellion.html?campaign_id=60&emc=edit_na_20230627&instance_id=0&nl=breaking-news&ref=h

2.7.4 Trans Biden Official Claims Gov't Does Not 'Belong' In Gender Treatments (2023-07-03 19:01)

The Biden Administration's transgender health official Rachel Levine argued that government should not have a say in a child's choice to castrate themselves through the Left's radical woke push.

During an interview with the Washington Post on health equity "to eliminate barriers to health care," Levine attacked several Republican-led bills to protect children from being mutilated and brainwashed by the Democratic Party's progressive agenda.

"Well, it is very challenging for health equity for the LGBTQI+ community, and these politically and ideologically motivated laws and actions are harming youth, particularly transgender youth, their families, and even their providers who are under siege in many parts of this country," Levine said.

He claimed that the government is interfering with the relationship between so-called “expert” physicians and children.

The transgender said restrictions on gender-affirming care for minors are “challenging for health equity for the LGBTQI+ community,” especially those “harming transgender youth, their families, and even their providers who are under siege in many parts of this country.”

Former Fox News host Tucker Carlson [1]mocked the Biden Administration for using Levine as a prop to push their radical agenda, calling him “a fat guy in a Halloween costume who somehow became a federal health minister.”

“[Levine] transitioned later in life into an overweight, middle-aged woman. Both wound up working as high-level officials in the Joe Biden Administration. Their teammates at their all-boys school in Boston probably wouldn’t have protected any of that,” Carlson added.

Earlier this week, Levine called for Pride Month to be extended to a whole “summer of pride” in a video on behalf of the federal government.

At the White House’s largest Pride event, President Joe Biden promised to print more money that will go directly to fund damaging, life-altering sex-change surgeries for kids.

1. https://twitter.com/TuckerCarlson/status/1674908563733377026?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1674908563733377026%7Ctwgr%5E960ca1a55b538efa4

2.7.5 DeSantis's Latest Attack On Trump Didn't Go Over So Well With Voters (2023-07-03 19:02)

Attacks between 2024 GOP presidential candidates former President Trump and Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla) are not slowing down anytime soon.

In the latest series of shots being fired, DeSantis's campaign posted a controversial video criticizing Trump's LGBTQ stance.

To wrap up "Pride Month," let's hear from the politician who did more than any other Republican to celebrate it...

[1]pic.twitter.com/FT7LdW4vls— DeSantis War Room 🇺🇸 (@DeSantisWarRoom)
[2]June 30, 2023

As progressives wrap up Pride Month, the governor's campaign dug up an old video of Trump saying he "will do everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens."

The former president's comments were made at the Republican National Convention in July 2016, following the fatal shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, which left 49 people dead.

The video continued to bash Trump, saying, "Let's hear from the politician who did more than any other Republican to celebrate it," despite using the 45th president's words out of context for the governor's benefit.

Trump could be heard saying that he supports allowing former Olympic star turned-transgender activist Caitlyn Jenner to use any restroom he wants if he visits the White House.

On the contrary, as the video ended, DeSantis's team painted the governor as a "real wolf who has arrived," comparing him to Tom Cruises's *Top Gun* character.

However, the video was met with mixed reviews, claiming DeSantis went too far in attacking his 2024 rival.

I spent the last 7 years of my life working with Trump to make the GOP a more welcoming place for gays WHILE ALSO being anti-groomer, anti-woke and pro religious liberty.

I've even worked WITH DeSantis on this agenda.

This ad is a slap in the face, and makes any LGBT person...— David Leatherwood ☐☐ (@brokebackUSA) [3]July 1, 2023

This is the worst video I have ever seen in my life and who ever is responsible should be fired immediately. The person that posted this tweet should be fired immediately.

If this is the image he wants portrayed I dont even think I will be voting in the primary.— Victims Rights (@victimsrightsNY) [4]July 1, 2023

Dont think that hit the mark you wanted it too...— WatdoUbelieveN (@watdoubelieven) [5]July 1, 2023

Log Cabin Republican [6]described the video as “divisive and desperate,” adding that “Ron DeSantis’ extreme rhetoric...has just ventured into homophobic territory.”

Another [7]said the video is not a good look for DeSantis’s chances of winning the GOP primary.

“Truly one of the weirdest videos I’ve ever seen a politician put out. Also, splicing images of DeSantis alongside images of shirtless and masked men... does not quite send the anti-LGBTQ message apparently intended,”*New York Times* reporter Jonathan Swan [8]said.

Since coming onto the scene during the Covid-19 pandemic, DeSantis has pushed back against the Left’s indoctrination of children through its anti-American LGBTQ agenda. He has portrayed himself as the most pro-family Republican leader in the U.S., passing several [9]bills aimed at [10]protecting children and their families from the radical Left.

1. <https://t.co/FT7LdW4vls>
2. https://twitter.com/DeSantisWarRoom/status/1674899610379116546?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
3. https://twitter.com/brokebackUSA/status/1674963345663729667?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. https://twitter.com/victimrightsNY/status/1675121985934831616?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
5. https://twitter.com/watdoubelieven/status/1675132933219274752?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
6. https://twitter.com/LogCabinGOP/status/1674935102298783744?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1674935102298783744%7Ctwgr%5E92b3964f2378c17acd5
7. <https://twitter.com/JustinPulitzer/status/1674965031727910913>
8. https://twitter.com/jonathanvswan/status/1675135492864593921?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1675135492864593921%7Ctwgr%5E92b3964f2378c17ac
9. <https://www.flgov.com/2023/04/13/governor-ron-desantis-signs-heartbeat-protection-act/>
10. <https://apnews.com/article/desantis-florida-lgbtq-education-health-c68a7e5fe5cf22ab8cca324b00644119>

2.7.6 And Soon They Will Control Everything (2023-07-03 19:03)

Digital technology, from cryptocurrency to artificial intelligence, promises to transform every aspect of our lives. Will that transformation promote liberty or tyranny? Those who seek centralized government control, from President Biden to President Xi Jinping, intend to exploit digital technology to divest Americans of freedom in favor of government planning. The survival of individual liberty is very much at stake. Legal barriers against domestic and global governmental interference with the digital marketplace are urgently needed. Consistent with the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the emerging digital marketplace must be free, private, and protected against government political influence and control. The bellwether of economic liberty, free enterprise, must reign in the digital world as it has in the analog world.

The Founding Fathers understood the Constitution's very purpose to be protection of individual liberty whether in the realm of economics or politics ("That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men . . ." Declaration of Independence, para. 2). President Roosevelt's First and Second New Deals reneged on that core constitutional purpose by ordering government to devour private ownership and control to serve political ends. The Supreme Court ultimately acquiesced in that assumption of government power beyond constitutional limits in a line of cases from *Nebbia v. New York* in 1934 to *U.S. v. Carolene Products* in 1938. The Court reduced defense of economic liberty to a mere rational basis review, inviting usurpation of private property rights by state and federal governments. From 1938 forward, economic liberty has had virtually no protection from government in direct opposition to the Framers' intent. Since then, the government has only been required to show that it has some cogent rationale, some "rational basis" (that its

means are rationally related to a legitimate government interest, real or imaginary) for its economic regulation to be upheld as constitutional, regardless of the extent to which its actions ravage private property. That fundamental departure from the Framers' intent is now a major Achilles heel that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the international organizations the CCP influences, and the Biden administration are exploiting in their rush to achieve a global digital ID and a centralized digital banking currency.

On March 20, 2023, President Biden vetoed a bill that would have overturned a U.S. Department of Labor rule allowing private retirement fund investment managers to take into account Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors (such as a company's carbon footprint, the racial or gender composition of its board of directors, or its commitment to the Administration's climate change agenda) in making investment decisions. President Biden has issued several executive orders compelling federal departments and agencies to implement ESG agendas. Among those now implementing ESG are the Departments of Labor, Transportation, and Treasury (through the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency), the SEC, the EPA, and OSHA. Asset management firm BlackRock and numerous other leading domestically headquartered firms are presently implementing ESG over an estimated \$8.4 trillion in assets.

The ESG concept grew out of musings by United Nations staffers, which then caught the attention of UN leadership, foremost among them Paul Clements-Hunt, the former head of UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative, who helped popularize the idea of redirecting private investment away from what would yield maximum profit (capitalism) to what was politically preferred by governments and governmental proxies (socialism). Deny access to capital for all but far left causes and, voila, capitalism gives way to socialism overnight.

The Biden administration is cooperating enthusiastically with international organizations that are under the heavy influence of Communist China in the effort to make digital IDs a global phenomenon by 2025 and to usurp private digital currencies with central bank digital currencies (CBDC). Through these means, it will be possible for governments and their proxy organizations to compel individuals to

follow politically preferred directions (totalitarianism) depriving them of individual sovereignty and free choice in virtually every area of life, among them healthcare (requiring vaccination and dictating medical treatment options); lending and investment (mandating ESG scores); and purchasing decisions (denying purchase for those with certain ESG scores).

Xi Jinping ordered the CCP to take “an active part in leading the reform of the global governance system.” China has therefore insinuated itself into global governance of all leading international quasi-governmental organizations, like the UN, WHO, IMF, BIS, and the FATF, doing so through a combination of strategic investments in these entities and exercise of influence, first over key CCP-sympathetic proxies and now increasingly through direct involvement of Chinese nationals and CCP members. All treaty-based international organizations that wield power over member states are increasingly dominated by a Who’s Who of Chinese communists. As early as 2020, the writing was on the wall, with Kristine Lee of Politico reporting that Qu Dongyu, former Chinese Vice Minister of Agriculture, had become the head of the UN Food and Agricultural Agency; Zhao Houlin of China’s Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications had become the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union; Liu Zhenmin, China’s former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, had become a leader in the U.N. Department of Economics and Social Affairs; and Chinese national Fang Liu had become a leader in the UN International Civil Aviation Organization. Lee summarized the impact of President Xi’s efforts: “Beijing has moved expeditiously to impose its illiberal values on international organizations. Through a combination of deft coalition-building, strategically timed financial contributions and narrative-shaping efforts, Beijing has made progress in transforming the U.N. into a platform for its foreign policy agenda . . .” And it is not only the UN but also virtually every treaty-based international organization.

With no effective counterpoise from the Biden administration and, to the contrary, with that administration’s various tacit or overt complicity, China’s quest to deprive citizens, including those of the United States, of individual liberty and sovereignty, proceeds apace through regulation of digitization (e.g., global digital IDs and central bank digital currencies). A “Brave New World,” to draw from Aldous Huxley, a world of tyranny, not of liberty, threatens those who yearn to be free.

Since the first decade of this century, the UN has been working feverishly on plans for international control over digital IDs and currencies as means to alter human behavior in favor of directions chosen by government and quasi-government actors (most notably the CCP). The UN is demanding that member states adopt digital IDs for all citizens by 2025. As a proxy for Communist China, the UN and other international bodies will be able to obliterate any reserve of privacy and free choice left for individuals in member states, like the United States, via national digital IDs. Digital IDs will include in one account information now kept separately, such as from driver's licenses, medical records, and passports. Moreover, because Digital IDs will likely be required ubiquitously and, even if not ubiquitous, may be combined in digital profiles with information obtained from digital wallets regulated by Central Bank Digital Currencies that track every purchase, a person's health, economic, and political profile will be instantly accessible by governments and enable state and government-coerced private action restrictive of individual liberty.

It is not difficult to perceive the consequences of the extreme government control enabled by digital IDs and CBDCs. Want to ride on public transit? No, your Digital ID does not record a COVID vaccine. Want a home equity or car loan? No, you lack a preferred ESG score. Want to attend a concert at a public venue? No, your CBDC information suggests you harbor a viewpoint deemed "offensive."

To ensure protection for individual liberty and privacy against totalitarian government and China-influenced international organization control, the United States should withdraw from international organizations that pursue global governance in place of our constitutionally protected rights and sovereignty and prohibit use of government digital IDs and CBDCs domestically. Instead, the United States should protect the growth and development of private digital currencies and prohibit use of ESG scoring as a basis for any government action or regulated entity lending, sale, or purchasing decision.

Rate this:

2.7.7 The Left's Culture of Death I: Age is Irrelevant (2023-07-03 19:04)

"In Yanxing [China] county, a wealthy region in Yunnan [province] covered in salt flats, over a hundred middle-school students were arrested and tortured in April 1951 after an anonymous denunciation reached the local [communist] party headquarters. Wu Liening, ten years old, was hung from a beam and beaten. Ma Silie, aged eight, was tied up on a cross in a kneeling position. A wooden pole was placed across his thighs and pressed down by two of his tormentors, crushing his legs and knees on the concrete floor. Even Liu Wendi, aged six, was accused of being the head of a spying squad. Two of the children were tortured to death. This was not an isolated example. A team of militia in Sichuan [province] also tried to uncover counter-revolutionaries among schoolchildren. Some had both hands and feet tied up while being suspended upside down; others were made to go through mock executions. Three were tortured to death, and another five of the children committed suicide. About fifty of the victims survived the abuse, although many were crippled or maimed for life." (Frank Dikötter, *The Tragedy of Liberation*, Chapter 5, "The Great Terror")

Welcome to the Left's Wonderful Culture of Death.

If you want to know about Leftism, communism, and socialism, if you want to know what they did in China, if you want to know what American Leftists will do if they ever get control of the United States and feel their hold is being threatened; if you really want to know about these people, then I urge you to read historian Frank Dikötter's trilogy on Mao Zedong: *The Tragedy of Liberation*, *Mao's Great Famine*, and *The Cultural Revolution*. They cover the years from when Mao gained power in 1949 until his death in 1976. The stories are absolutely horrifying, as evidenced by the quote at the beginning of this column. The shocking thing is, Dikötter, in his research, had access to relatively few of the archives in communist China and can only give us a small sample of what really must have happened.

As a historian, I have been trying, repeatedly, desperately, to warn Townhall (and other) readers about the horrors of Leftist philosophy as practiced in the 20th century (read also about Lenin, Stalin, Pol Pot, and others, as well as Dikötter's books, to get a fuller picture.) These people are atheists; they have no moral foundation other than

what they think the world should be like, and given power, they always try to create the Utopia that exists in their warped, godless minds. And anyone who opposes them—because these Leftists have no God-given respect for human life—needs to be wiped out for the “betterment” of mankind. The Left is trying to give us an earthly utopia; since there is no God, there is no heaven after this life, so this existence is the only one we will ever know. We must make it as perfect as possible.

And only the Left knows how to do that. And, again, anyone who opposes them is opposing the great, earthly Shangri-la and needs to be silenced. That often involves killing millions of innocent humans. Well, they are all going to die someday anyway, Stalin said.

When Mao Zedong took over China, he began to implement his “socialist” economic scheme immediately. That meant “land reform,” which meant taking land away from “rich landlords” and distributing it to the “poor.” Well, the definition of “rich” was loosely applied to basically mean anybody who owned anything. (Mao was following his mentor Stalin here, who had done the same thing in the USSR in the 1930s.) There was significant hostility to Mao’s communist scheme, especially in the countryside but also in the cities. His economic plan became a miserable disaster everywhere. Let Dikötter explain the dictator’s predicament:

“By the summer of 1950, the communists had few friends left. The party, Mao explained to his colleagues, was ‘hitting out in all directions,’ making nothing but enemies. Capitalists disliked the communist party, the jobless were restless, and most workers were disgruntled thanks to the economic slump. In the countryside, villagers were taxed to the hilt, while in the cities, intellectuals feared losing their jobs. Those working in the arts resented political interference. Opposition to the new regime was rife in religious circles. ‘The entire country is tense,’ Mao noted, and ‘we are rather lonely.’”

As Dikötter also says, “Paranoia was intrinsic to the regime, which

lived in fear of its own shadow.” Stalin ran into the same problem. People resist compulsory Leftism—reference Bud Light. So, paranoia is a common phenomenon in Leftist circles because they know what they are going to do will not be popular with the masses, and they are afraid the people will rebel. And, of course, that is exactly what happens. Leftism can never win by debate; it can only win by force. We are seeing that in America today.

So, what was Mao’s choice? What could he do? The solution was simple: start killing people (terror). Dikötter again: “For a full year [1951], a Great Terror would run alongside land reform, shaking the country to its very roots and forcing people from all walks of life to take sides.”

As noted in the first quote in this column, even six-year-old children didn’t escape the communists’ torment. Well, they aren’t escaping it in America now, either, as countless children are being mutilated on a Leftist altar of sexual degradation and perversity. How far do you think it is from mutilation to murder? Mao’s China shows us: not far.

A Leftist is a Leftist is a Leftist—in China, the USSR, Cuba—or America. If we think they won’t do, in America, what they did (are doing) in China and elsewhere, then we are in for a rude shock if they ever get the power they crave.

2.7.8 Who Is Really President? It’s Barack Obama (2023-07-03 19:05)

Yes, Joe Biden is the 46th President of the United States and enjoys all the benefits of the office, including travel on Air Force One and Secret Service protection. He assumed the office after a controversial and contested election employing a “basement” campaign strategy with few events and media interviews.

Since his inauguration, his mental and physical condition has seriously deteriorated. With his declining health, it is inconceivable that Joe Biden can serve as President until he is 86 years old. However, when asked about his age and the concerns of Americans, Biden usually says “watch me.”

Yes, we are watching and that is why millions of Americans are horrified about a physically weakened and mentally incompetent President continuing in the most important office in the world.

As noted by former White House Physician and U.S. Representative Ronny Jackson (R-TX), Biden is “not fit mentally or physically to be our President, and it’s a bad situation for us.” As Jackson explained, “his physical decline is now starting to highlight the cognitive decline that we’ve been watching for so long now...It’s a package that just doesn’t sell around the world, and it’s becoming a national security issue for us.”

Jackson is not alone; all Americans can clearly see there is something wrong with Biden. A recent NBC News poll showed that an astounding [1]68 % of all voters “have concerns about Biden having the necessary mental and physical health” to serve as President of the United States. Among all poll respondents, 55 % attest that their concerns about Biden’s condition are “major.”

Recommended

The evidence of his problems is plain for every American to see. Biden often seems lost after finishing speeches and needs help exiting the stage. In a recent MSNBC interview, he bizarrely walked away before the host could end the segment.

He recently suffered a major fall on stage at the Air Force Academy commencement ceremonies. Americans have also seen him fall off his bike and trip while walking up the stairs of Air Force One. This may be why he recently started using a less intimidating set of stairs to exit the aircraft.

His speaking gaffes are too numerous to mention. He commits errors in practically every interview and speech he delivers. In the last week, he confused Iraq for Ukraine several times.

His stories about his background and family life are so preposterous that Americans know he is lying. Whether Biden believes these whoppers or not is a legitimate question since he has a long history of telling outright lies and committing plagiarism.

However, occasionally, the truth will emerge, and Biden will make a curious comment. For example, he will claim that he cannot answer questions or mention something because he is worried about being scolded by a mysterious individual or group.

At a recent speech to the League of Conservation Voters, Biden talked about building a “railroad from the Pacific all the way across the Indian Ocean” Of course, this was another misstatement for it referred to building a railroad across the continent of Africa. Biden concluded his remarks by claiming, “I could go on, but I’m not. I’m going off script. I’m going to get in trouble.”

No wonder Biden’s staff does not want him going “off script.” When he does, the results can be ugly. Outside the White House while briefing

talking with reporters, before leaving on Marine One, Biden screamed “No” when asked about his involvement in his son’s shady business deals.

This is why Biden conducts few press conferences and when he does submit to questions, he calls on a list of pre-approved reporters his staff has prepared.

Biden is tightly controlled by his staff who exert powerful control over his presidency. He seems to be in constant fear of getting “in trouble” with “his staff.”

Isn’t Joe Biden the President of the United States? If so, why is he worried about getting “in trouble?” Who has this kind of influence over the most powerful person in the world?

As Tucker Carlson stated in a 2022 Sky News Australia interview, Biden is “merely a proxy for the people...running the U.S. government. The faceless diabolical figures that are driving us into the abyss ... they’ve benefited greatly from having a senile president.”

Who are the “diabolical figures” who control Joe Biden? One of the most influential is the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden. She is the one who initially vouched for his health as a 2020 presidential candidate. She is the one who continually whispers in his ear what to say and guides him off stage and through crowds at events. She must be giving him some type of care when the cameras are off. Without her approval, Biden would be dismissed as unfit for the presidency, so her role is huge.

On the political side, one figure looms large, Biden’s former boss,

Barack Obama. On Tuesday, Obama and Biden had lunch at the White House. At a fundraiser in New York, Biden joked that when he hears Hail to the Chief, he looks around for Obama. At the same event, he admitted that Obama had been “helping out a lot.”

Obama had his key aide, Susan Rice, ensconced in a key White House position for the first two years of the Biden presidency. As he attempts to run for re-election, Biden will be relying even more on Obama.

Unlike Biden, Obama is still physically and mentally active. He is still incredibly involved in political issues and wants to see the far-left agenda implemented. He knows that if Donald Trump is elected again as President, his legacy will be further destroyed.

In a December 2020 CBS interview, Obama revealed his preference for a “third term” in which he would be in control in his “basement,” but his lackey would wear an “earpiece” and “deliver the lines” written by Obama.

Unfortunately for Obama, Biden cannot “deliver the lines” very well, but he sure can follow orders.

1. <https://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/first-read/poll-68-voters-worries-bidens-mental-physical-health-r-cna91343>

2.7.9 SCOTUS Uses Nancy Pelosi’s Words Against Her In Decision to Strike Down Biden’s student loan plan (2023-07-03 19:08)

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-Calif) past comments came back to haunt her after the Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden’s student loan forgiveness plan on Friday—handing conservatives a win.

In the 6-3 ruling that wiped away Biden's \$400 billion student debt plan, Chief Justice John Roberts cited a speech that Pelosi gave at a press conference in July 2021 in his opinion.

"As then-Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi explained: 'People think that the President of the United States has the power for debt forgiveness. He does not. He can postpone. He can delay. But he does not have that power. That has to be an act of Congress,'" Roberts wrote.

During her speech, Pelosi mentioned a scenario where "your child just decided they want to – at this time, not want to go to college, but you're paying taxes to forgive somebody else's obligations."

The Democrat claimed voters would not be happy about Biden's plan to forgive student loans, making it appear to question whether such policy would be "fair."

The Supreme Court has been mulling the President's heavenly-funded plan for months as six Republican-led states sued the Biden Administration, claiming he overstepped his legal authority.

Biden announced his plan last year, estimating it would wipe the debt of at least 20 million Americans, providing relief to the remaining 20 million. The program's objective of eliminating up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for borrowers making less than \$125,000 and up to \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients was struck down, dealing a major blow to Democrats.

Student loan payments were paused multiple times over the past several years. However, after a three-year hiatus, interest will start accruing on Sept. 1, with payments beginning to be due in October.

2.7.10 A few days in danbury, Wisconsin (2023-07-05 17:33)

When I drove here, I drank 7up. I was looking at Youtube and Snapchat. I walked down to the lake 26 and I saw a family there, some girls in bikini so I kept my distance. I went down to the dock with Lindsey (dog). I saw a UTV parked in the middle of the parking lot in the park. After I took pictures of the park, I walked on a bike trail across the street. It was a grassy place with fallen birch snags in the middle of the trail so I went back toward the road. I see a lot of UTVs around Danbury, Wisconsin driving on the road. On the way back, I saw a husky, who was trying to be dominant. After a brief sniff, I was on my way to the camper. I had hot dogs later that day. On the radio, there was Gretchen Wilson- Redneck Woman playing on the radio. I thought there was a lot of rednecks in danbury with their UTVs, log cabins, pickups, country music.

The next day, I drove to Siren Antiques. The antique store had lots of worn out stuff dating around 2007 or earlier. It's strange that 2007 is somehow antique, but I think they charge outrageous prices.... double the thrift store next door. I saw old hunting books from 1991. I saw some girls mystery books from 1995. Then I saw some brooks and dunn and alan Jackson greatest hits and Elvis cds at \$4. The old PS2 sports video games were already \$25,

outrageous for old sports games that cost \$5 a decade ago. Then we had a burger and pizza at Wild Waters Bar near the St. Croix Casino danbury. Dad told me if I mingle with the locals in the bar, I would get punched. There was a live rock band.

Next day, I got ice cream at Dairy Queen in Siren, Wisconsin. Mom looked at the refrigerator for ice cream products. We bought ice cream cones. I bought strawberry. Dad bought hot fudge. Mom bought chocolate. We sat on the bench at first until a table was open.

2.7.11 Survey Finds Most Popular Beers in America. Bud Light's Not Even in the Top 10. (2023-07-10 15:18)

Rocked by a massive boycott over its partnership with trans influencer Dylan Mulvaney, Bud Light was recently dethroned as America's top selling beer to Modelo. But the bad news for the brand just keeps getting worse. A new survey finds Americans don't even rank it in the top 10 beers in the U.S.

According to a YouGov poll of 1,468 people, while the percentage of people who "liked" the beer stayed the same, the popularity of its competitors climbed so much it kicked Bud Light into 14th place, tied with Pabst Blue Ribbon.

For its survey, YouGov polled a nationally representative sample of 1,468 Americans during the second quarter of 2023, which runs from April to the end of June.

They found that Guinness, Corona and Heineken were the three most liked beers of 2023, with approval from 58 percent, 53 percent and 51 percent of Americans, respectively.

In the second quarter of 2022, 42 percent of Americans 'liked' Bud Light, according to YouGov, putting it on a par with Corona Extra, Dos Equis and Coors Light.

The Bud Light figure remained the same during the second quarter of 2023, but as other beers saw their approval rise, its relative approval fell into a tie with Pabst Blue Ribbon, Miller Genuine Draft and Miller Light. (Daily Mail)

Sales of Bud Light have been stuck in a downward spiral since April, with the number of units sold ahead of the July 4 holiday falling 31.3 percent from the same time the year prior. This comes despite efforts by the brand to entice customers, such as offering rebates that make it cheaper than water in some warehouses.

The sustained backlash has caused parent company Anheuser-Busch to lose \$27 billion in market cap since the boycott began.

2.7.12 Even the NYT Is Calling Biden Out for His 'Cold Shoulder and Heart' Towards Granddaughter (2023-07-10 15:21)

President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden have acted shamelessly when it comes to their seventh grandchild, as they don't even acknowledge Hunter Biden's 4-year-old daughter. Time after time, the couple has bragged about their "six grandchildren." White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre just this past Wednesday's press briefing refused to speak to the issue. This isn't surprising given her track record of incompetency, but it doesn't make the situation any more excusable.

White House reporter brings up an NY Times article on Hunter Biden's daughter in Arkansas and asks if the president acknowledges the little girl as his granddaughter.

KARINE: "I don't have anything to share from here. pic.twitter.com/bUmYXlyqV4
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) July 5, 2023

The reporter in question had brought up an article from The New York Times from the previous weekend, though that's not the only time the leftist media outlet has discussed the family drama. On Saturday, they published a column from Maureen Dowd, "It's Seven Grandkids, Mr. President."

A significant portion of the column is actually about the columnist's sister, Peggy, a Republican who has voted for Democrats, including the Obama-Biden ticket in 2008 and then even wrote in Biden's name in 2012:

"I watched as you told the nation that you had six grandchildren and you loved each one of them," she wrote. "I believe that. What I cannot believe and what I find unconscionable is that you refuse to admit or accept the fact that there is a beautiful little 4-year-old girl living in Arkansas by the name of Navy Joan who is your seventh grandchild."

Peggy wrote about Hunter's high-priced lawyers going down to Arkansas to make sure Navy could not use the Biden name and to slash child support payments.

"She has the Biden blood running through her veins, and all she is going to have as a reminder of this are some of Hunter's original paintings; sounds like a lousy trade-off, if you ask me," Peggy wrote, referring to the agreement that assigned some of Hunter's artwork to the daughter he has never met, even though DNA testing in 2019 established his paternity.

...

"As she grows up, knowing that her father and paternal grandparents wanted nothing to do with her," Peggy wrote, "she will probably be able to see a video or two showing her half sister Naomi getting married on the South Lawn and you watching the fireworks on the balcony with little Beau. And if she misses that, there will be plenty of schoolmates to remind her that she wasn't wanted. Kids can be mean that way."

She asked why Hunter couldn't act like Tom Brady, who treats his son by Bridget Moynahan, the actress he was dating before he married Gisele Bündchen, the same as the two children he and Gisele had. (Not to mention Arnold Schwarzenegger, who says in a new Netflix documentary series that he has a great relationship with the son he had after a tryst with his

family's housekeeper that broke up his marriage.)

"Mr. President, many years ago, you lost your daughter in a horrendous car accident," Peggy continued. "I know you still carry that pain with you every day because I have watched your face when you speak about her. Please do not throw away your granddaughter."

Recommended

Axios Has a New Nickname for Joe Biden and We Don't Think He's Going to Like It
Spencer Brown

The letter is particularly telling in that it comes from a Biden fan, and with excerpts of it being published in such a Biden-friendly outlet. The columnist herself holds nothing back against the president, going on to say "this is not a political issue to us. It's a human one."

Let's keep in mind that liberals love to point to Biden as a family man, or what they say is his sense of empathy. Biden himself has noted that he ran "to restore the soul of this country, a sense of decency and honor." What might otherwise endear Biden to voters though, makes him come off as that much more of a hypocrite.

After pointing to the matter as "a human one," Dowd adds that "Joe Biden's mantra has always been that 'the absolute most important thing is your family.' It is the heart of his political narrative. Empathy, born of family tragedies, has been his stock in trade."

"What the Navy story reveals is how dated and inauthentic the 80-year-old president's view of family is," Dowd also points out, especially since "now we have become vastly more accepting of nontraditional families."

It only gets more charged from there, as Dowd pulls on the heart strings of readers, and hopefully of Biden. After talking about the president's relationship with his son, she notes that "the president can't defend Hunter on all his other messes and draw the line at accepting one little girl. You can't punish her for something she had no choice about. The Bidens should embrace the life Hunter brought into the world, even if he didn't consider her mother 'the dating type.'"

Not only does Hunter consider the mother of his child, Lunden Roberts, a former exotic dancer, to be "hardly the dating type," he also claimed to not recall their encounters. Despite this, he "put her on the payroll of his consulting firm as a personal assistant while she was pregnant. About three months after Navy was born, Hunter took away Roberts's company health insurance," Dowd's column recaps, in case you need to be reminded of just how terribly Hunter Biden had treated his daughter and her mother.

The part of the column that looks to be getting the most attention is the very end, as Dowd in closing writes that "[t]he president's cold shoulder-and heart-is counter to every message he has sent for decades, and it's out of sync with the America he wants to continue to lead."

Unfortunately, the Biden family has shown the country their true colors, especially when it comes to 4-year-old Navy Joan Roberts, but also in their contempt for the American people daring to know more about the cocaine that was just last week discovered at the White House, or when it comes to the politicized and weaponized Biden Department of Justice (DOJ) is

going after the president's top political opponent for 2024.

As is mentioned, and as Townhall has been covering, it was recently revealed that a settlement had been reached between Hunter Biden and Lunden Roberts, with support payments being lowered and Navy Joan not being allowed to have the Biden name. Instead, she will be given her father's paintings.

From book dedications to Christmas stockings that acknowledge the family dog but not Navy, the Bidens have gone through great lengths to reject the little girl. Joe Biden also claimed to have only six grandkids while speaking to children outside of the White House back in April, demonstrating how he and his family have publicly denied Navy Joan.

BIDEN: "I have six grandchildren..."

Unmentioned: Hunter's 4-year-old daughter, who the Bidens refuse to acknowledge
pic.twitter.com/XRrgPollou

— RNC Research (@RNCResearch) April 27, 2023

2.7.13 WSJ Columnist: What the Hell Is Merrick Garland Doing? (2023-07-10 15:22)

Attorney General Merrick Garland is facing a potential impeachment inquiry for what appears to be lying to Congress about the independence of the Justice Department's investigations into Hunter Biden. Garland not only said there was no interference from the Department of Justice but that prosecuting attorneys had the authority to bring whatever legal action was required pending the results of the findings. That is not the case. IRS whistleblowers have come forward with credible testimony, citing pervasive DOJ meddling.

IRS Agent Gary Shapley has gone on record to CBS News contradicting Garland's testimony. The IRS task force investigating Hunter was also scrapped. US Attorney David Weiss, who had been investigating the son of the former president, wanted to charge Hunter in 2022 but was blocked on multiple occasions. This development was also confirmed by The New York Times, though they did their best to bury the story.

WATCH: Sen. Cruz's full line of questioning and AG Merrick Garland's under oath testimony that is now contradicted by an IRS whistleblower. pic.twitter.com/qUAn52ggQj

— Steve Guest (@SteveGuest) May 25, 2023

Wall Street Journal Kimberley Strassel highlighted the coming media spin aimed at protecting Garland from impeachment while adding that two key questions are on his desk right now concerning how the Department of Justice conducted themselves with the Hunter Biden investigations (via WSJ) [emphasis mine]:

The attorney general was insistent in a Friday press conference that Justice Department brass hadn't interfered in the probe into Joe Biden's son, and that Mr. Weiss was "given complete authority to make all decisions," including "to prosecute any way in which he wanted to and in any district in which he wanted to." He said Mr. Weiss had never asked him for special-counsel authority, even as he claimed the Delaware prosecutor has "in fact more authority" than that of a special counsel.

Mr. Garland's statements are completely at odds with testimony from IRS whistleblower Gary Shapley. That investigator says prosecutors working for Mr. Weiss wanted to charge Hunter with felony tax offenses in the District of Columbia and California. But he says Mr. Weiss surprised him and others in an October 2022 meeting by saying he was "not the deciding official on whether charges are filed," and explained that the Biden-appointed U.S. attorney for the capital, Matthew Graves, wouldn't allow charges to proceed.

[...]

The Times seemed more interested in fogging the air, suggesting the whole thing may come down to "miscommunication" or "clashing substantive judgments among agencies over how best to pursue a prosecution." Expect more such obfuscation from Mr. Garland's defenders and the Justice Department itself. But don't be taken in. There are only two relevant questions here, both of which will have documented answers. First, is it true that the president's appointed attorneys refused to bring charges against the president's son in their districts, defying a team that had spent years building a case? Second, was Mr. Weiss ever given formal authority to bring those charges on his own?

The answer to the first question already looks to be yes, and it alone constitutes a scandal. If the team appointed to investigate Hunter wanted cases prosecuted in certain jurisdictions, and those cases failed to proceed on the say-so of Biden appointees, it destroys Mr. Garland's claims that the case was insulated from politics. And no one will have to rely solely on Mr. Shapley's word or emails, already partly backed by the Times reporting. His attorneys provided the names of others present at that October meeting, and they'll testify. Assuming the U.S. attorneys did block the effort, there will be an extensive document trail: travel vouchers by those who presented the cases in Washington and California, documents from those presentations, emails about the decision. The department might try to block production of those documents from Congress, but federal inspectors general are now also on the case.

Then to the second question about Mr. Weiss's own authority. U.S. attorneys can't file charges wherever they please; they have jurisdictions. Mr. Garland's claim that Mr. Weiss had even "more authority" than a special counsel with the ability to file "in any district" is bizarre—unless Mr. Weiss was formally given such power. As Sol Wisenberg, a former associate and deputy independent counsel, explained on Twitter, to file elsewhere Mr. Weiss would "need some kind of letter from Garland (or an [associate attorney general]) naming Weiss as a special or poo-bah counsel authorized to file charges in the relevant district." He emphasizes that "Garland cannot give that authority verbally," there needs to be a "written delegation."

So where is it?

The investigation into Hunter Biden is no longer a partisan ploy: the Department of Justice's reported actions just magnified the case. What were they trying to hide and why? And what about this letter regarding special counsel status that Weiss requested? Did Garland sign off on it? Congressional Republicans now have all the reason they need to dig deep investigating into not just Hunter but the actions of the DOJ. The sub-committee on how the federal government has been weaponized should possibly be roped into these inquiries. The House Oversight Committee should be aggressive as well. Shapley added that he suspects

the Justice Department interfered so much because some of the roads his task force were on could have led to Joe Biden.

2.7.14 Mike Pence Attacked By Rally Goers: 'If It Wasn't For Your Vote, We Would Not Have Biden' (2023-07-10 15:25)

Former Vice President Mike Pence was caught in the crosshairs after a voter blamed him for President Joe Biden being elected.

During a small rally in Sioux City, Iowa, this week, a voter confronted Pence by criticizing him for allowing the 2020 election results to move forward for a final vote before Congress.

"Do you ever second-guess yourself? That was a constitutional right that you had to send those votes back to the states... If it weren't for your vote, we would not have Joe Biden in the White House," the woman said.

In response, the former vice president defended his actions, claiming he did not think he had such constitutional authority.

"I say this with great affection and respect," Pence began. "The Constitution is very clear. My job was to oversee a session of Congress where objections could be heard, and I made sure that objections would be recognized so we would hear whatever evidence or debate there was. But the Constitution says you open and count the votes. No more, no less."

Pence continued to defend himself, saying that rejecting or returning votes to the states has never been done before or should be done in the future.

Still, he threw his former boss, Trump, under the bus again like he has several times in the past.

"No vice president in American history ever asserted the authority that you have been convinced that I had. But I want to tell you, with all due respect, what I said before, I said when I announced. President Trump was wrong about my authority that day, and he's still wrong," he added.

However, Trending Politics pointed out several vice presidents have resolved disputed elections using constitutional authority.

"Vice President John Adams unilaterally resolved a dispute over Vermont's paperwork for its electors and counted the votes in his favor in 1796 to become president. Vice President Thomas Jefferson in 1800 resolved technical questions over Georgia's vote (its certificate was defective) by counting the state in his own favor. Nixon, in 1960, had two slates of certificates over Hawaii, with one declaring him the winner and the other John Kennedy. Nixon elected to count Hawaii's votes in Kennedy's favor."

Pence's campaign is already off to a rocky start. He is and has been trailing far behind

1338

Trump in the polls— to no surprise. In June, the former vice president was polling at just four percent in the national polls.

2.7.15 Tucker Reveals What Former Capitol Police Chief Told Him About Feds During J6 (2023-07-10 15:30)

Tucker Carlson told podcast host and actor Russel Brand during an interview that aired on Rumble that former Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund told him the rioting crowd on January 6, 2021 was filled with federal agents.

Carlson said he disapproved of the violence that took place during the riot, noting his son was in the Capitol during the chaos, but he said it never crossed his mind that law enforcement agencies could have played a role in the events that unfolded that day.

"I never thought it was a false flag or anything like that. I'm not a conspiracist by temperament. I never thought that," Carlson explained.

"And then I interviewed the chief of Capitol Police, Steven Sund, in an interview that was never aired on Fox by the way, I was fired before it could air. I'm going to interview him again. But Steven Sund was the totally non-political, worked for Nancy Pelosi, I mean this was not some right-wing activist. He was chief of the Capitol Police on January 6," he said.

"And he said, 'Yeah, yeah, that crowd was filled with federal agents.' What? 'Yes,'" Carlson added.

Recommended

Axios Has a New Nickname for Joe Biden and We Don't Think He's Going to Like It
Spencer Brown

Carlson said at the end of the day, the federal government has used the riot on January 6 as a pretext to obtain more power for itself at the expense of American citizens.

☐BREAKING: Tucker Carlson says the Chief of the Police at the Capitol told him that the crowd on J6 was "FILLED with federal agents" pic.twitter.com/joPEmioX7W

— Benny Johnson (@bennyjohnson) July 7, 2023

TUCKER: January 6th "was used by predators in our political sphere to increase their power to disempower the population they supposedly serve" pic.twitter.com/3tQE1SWaHU

— Benny Johnson (@bennyjohnson) July 7, 2023

2.7.16 Imploding Cities Will Drag All of Us Down — Even if You Don't Live Anywhere Near One (2023-07-16 17:27)

There is so much wrong with America's cities, it's hard to see why any contributing member of society would live and/or work in one of them. Some of the issues arise from far-Left

local governance while others are generated by more widespread Leftist policy. These are coupled with an organic workforce evolution, as the United States transitions from an industry-based to an information-based economy. The result is urban areas caught in a downward spiral — and, as with any sinking vessel, threatening to suck everyone nearby down with them.

First, a quick refresher on the compounding problems of urban areas. Chief among them is that big cities are dark blue, and thus they've become crucibles of Left-wing policy failure. Uncontrolled crime, roving drug and mental-illness zombies, and swarms of sanctuary-recipient asylum scammers are crowding out reasonable people and businesses. The normals who remain to take advantage of access to cultural events (such as they are) and restaurant variety are also subject to totalitarian social controls and two-tiered justice systems that punish them when they fight back against criminals. But no matter how desperate the situation becomes, city councils can be counted on to double down on woke policies, then double down again.

Businesses are fleeing. In the ones that remain, shopping for basic goods has become a frustrating exercise in waiting for an associate to unlock the case so you can grab a razor and some toothpaste. Add in today's high interest rates, which make owning and running a business prohibitively expensive, and the writing is on the wall. PJ Media colleague Rick Moran reported last month that large San Francisco commercial businesses, like hotels and malls, are simply walking away from their obligations, handing the keys to the banks with which their real estate is financed. Concurrently, major retailers are declining to renew leases and are simply closing their doors, unable to break even in an atmosphere where retail theft is encouraged. This process is occurring to some degree in major cities across the country.

While we conservatives point and laugh at the plight of woke cities from the comfort and safety of our suburban and rural homes, we may want to take a moment to consider a sobering issue. The effects of the imminent collapse of the commercial urban real estate market will ripple out across the financial sector and affect just about everyone in one way or another.

Remember the mortgage-backed securities crisis in 2008? And how, even if you didn't default on your mortgage or didn't even own a house, the entire economy tipped into what the hyperbolic media tagged "The Great Recession" and we all suffered? So, this would be kind of like that, except the problem will start with a commercial real estate collapse.

An article in The Atlantic last month called "The Next Crisis Will Start With Empty Office Buildings" paints a grim picture of what's going down. First, the demand for office space dries up:

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During the first three months of 2023, U.S. office vacancy topped 20 percent for the first time in decades. In San Francisco, Dallas, and Houston, vacancy rates are as high as 25 percent. These figures understate the severity of the crisis because they only cover spaces that are no longer leased. Most office leases were signed before the pandemic and have yet to come up for renewal. Actual office use points to a further decrease in demand. Attendance in the 10 largest business districts is still below 50 percent of its pre-COVID level, as white-collar employees spend an estimated 28 percent of their workdays at home.

With a third of all office leases expiring by 2026, we can expect higher vacancies, significantly lower rents, or both.

Next, the loss of commercial tenants and landlords causes urban fiscal pain:

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Property taxes underpin city budgets. In New York City, such taxes generate approximately 40 percent of revenue. Commercial property—mostly offices—contributes about 40 percent of these taxes, or 16 percent of the city’s total tax revenue. In San Francisco, property taxes contribute a lower share, but offices and retail appear to be in an even worse state.

Empty offices also contribute to lower retail sales and public-transport usage. In New York City, weekday subway trips are 65 percent of their 2019 level—though they’re trending up—and public-transport revenue has declined by \$2.4 billion. Meanwhile, more than 40,000 retail-sector jobs lost since 2019 have yet to return. A recent study by an NYU professor named Arpit Gupta and others estimate a 6.5 percent “fiscal hole” in the city’s budget due to declining office and retail valuations. Such a hole “would need to be plugged by raising tax rates or cutting government spending.”

Cities must then make choices between cutting services and raising taxes — either of which will further drive out the remaining wealthy and productive residents and businesses. The cycle can be deadly. As in the 1970s, municipalities will start declaring bankruptcy — and that will add a drain on federal resources, which will have to be used to bail them out. This will be on top of the unemployment benefits to the urban retail and hospitality workers who lost their jobs.

And the pain for the rest of us won’t stop at the high federal price tag:

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[T]urmoil in office markets threatens retirement systems and the portfolios of individual people. Public and private pension funds have traditionally kept their assets in stocks, bonds, and cash. However, in recent decades, they have shifted toward so-called alternative investments, including commercial real estate and private equity. These investments now comprise a third of their portfolios, with real estate comprising more than half of these assets for many pension funds.

Pre-COVID, this trend included significant investment in office space, particularly in major markets such as New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Boston—which are now struggling. Pensions saw this type of investment as a stable source of income, mainly through rent, and a hedge against inflation. With public pensions already underfunded by an estimated \$1 trillion, a decline in the value of commercial real estate could make this bad situation significantly worse.

Yikes.

Don’t start daydreaming that we’ll have a Republican president by then who will refuse

to bail out imploding cities, either. When you realize that everyone's pensions are involved, you understand that not bailing out these banks and cities was never going to be an option. They have us over a barrel. So we can expect a cool trillion or two to flow from Big G's coffers. This, while we are still reeling from the inflation and high interest rates from the last crisis, the Great COVID Overreaction Rescue Plan.

Related: West Coast, Messed Coast™ — 9th Circuit Judges Promise More Tent Cities for Everyone!

Yes, the shift in work styles was inevitable to an extent, once people began to move their lives online. The process was accelerated by the COVID shutdowns, as work, school, and shopping all went online. Buildings and districts built around in-person interaction simply aren't needed to the same degree they once were. But that doesn't let idiotic Leftist city managers off the hook.

There is much to recommend city life: museums, entertainment, fine dining, varied shopping and cultural experiences, travel hubs, and excellent medical care are all steps away. A large segment of the population prefers such a stimulating and convenient lifestyle, and they would happily live in cities regardless of whether they worked at home. Enterprising landlords could convert less-used office space to living space and continue to run a profitable business. But so long as Soros DAs, activists, and city councilors keep making urban life unlivable, America's cities will continue to circle the drain. And we're all going to get sucked down with them. Rate this:

2.7.17 My God, Is There Nothing The Left Won't Try To Ruin? (2023-07-16 17:29)

I don't like country music; it's just not my taste. I grew up on it because my mother loved it, but at some point, it changed to be just this side of Dave Matthews Band mixed with Hootie and the Blowfish, a fake kind of "party rock," if you can call it that, that's just not anything that interests me. Give me Alabama, Oak Ridge Boys, Charlie Pride, Conway Twitty, Johnny Cash, Tammy Wynette, George Jones, and everything else I was forcibly marinated in while sitting in the backseat of my parent's Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme, and I could sing along all day, almost involuntarily. I like the memories more than the music, but one inspires the other, so I'm in.

Modern country, meh. I've never been that big of a fan of anything other than indy/alternative rock, stuff I'd only hear on Canadian radio late at night growing up in Detroit. But some things you simply can't escape. I never liked hair bands, though some songs are ok, but I was aware of it. I had no use for folk, but I know who the Indigo Girls are, and I never attended Lilith Fair.

And I know who Tracy Chapman is, as does anyone over the age of 30, I suspect. Her song, "Fast Car," was inescapable. It was a huge hit when it was released in 1988, got heavy rotation on MTV back when the M stood for Music, and has been around ever since. Some hits come and go, others linger. Chapman's song has lingered.

It's a fine song; I just find folk music boring. But I don't find it obnoxious to the point I feel compelled to turn it off like some modern incoherent rap or techno "dance" music. It's fine background music that allows you to ignore it as much as you want to while still knowing

something is there; a useful void-filler.

Still, it's been some time since I've heard the song or even thought about it because why would I? I don't really listen to music much; I'm more of an audiobook guy now. So when I saw Tracy Chapman's picture next to a hairy white guy in a tweet from a New York Times "reporter," I stopped for a second out of curiosity. I'd seen enough of these "outraged-by-proxy" stories to recognize them simply by the photo.

The writer, someone called Emily Yahr, tweeted out, "As Luke Combs's hit cover of Tracy Chapman's 'Fast Car' dominates the country charts, it's bringing up some complicated emotions in fans & singers who know that Chapman, as a queer Black woman, would have an almost zero chance at that achievement herself."

Recommended

Many in the 2024 GOP Field Didn't Fare Well Against the 'Tucker Stress Test'

Matt Vespa

To that moment, I didn't know Chapman was "queer." To this moment, I still don't give a damn.

But what is the point of the story? To piss people off, to smear country music fans as racist homophobes, to divide, and to lie to do it. (You can read it here. Don't worry, it's an archived version so the Times won't get the clicks.)

Yahr, either because she or her editors are incredibly dumb lap dogs for the progressive movement and decided a cover of the song by some country artist called Luke Combs (I told you, I have no use for the stuff) was newsworthy because he's white and the songwriter is black and gay. She wrote, "One particular cover has struck a chord that no one saw coming." Why? A good and popular song is a good and popular song. Does it really matter if someone white covers a song by someone black or vice-versa? How about someone gay covering a song by someone straight?

Of course it doesn't; you're not an idiot leftist. To idiot leftists, skin color or who someone screws is all that matters - the individual is irrelevant; disposable, really.

The cover is a hit, which upsets people who find joy in being upset by stupid things. Yahr reports the cover's success "prompted a wave of complicated feelings among some listeners and in the Nashville music community. Although many are thrilled to see 'Fast Car' back in the spotlight and a new generation discovering Chapman's work, it's clouded by the fact that, as a Black queer woman, Chapman, 59, would have almost zero chance of that achievement herself in country music."

Honestly, everyone in the country has "almost zero chance" of having a number one country or any other kind of hit. Why is it special that Chapman is black and queer? It's not.

Lil Nas X is black and gay, and he had the biggest country hit ever with a song called "Old Town Road" a couple of years ago. It went huge worldwide and raked in millions upon millions of dollars. If only we were all so oppressed.

But Yahr never mentions any of it, as its existence would negate the entire point of her piece.

The story quotes professional victims and race-centric activists. It invokes George Floyd because it's a required useful tool for the left to signal liberal chardonnay-swilling suburban women hoping to gain social credit points at their next school board meeting counter-protest to protect kids from learning how to read or do math at the expense of memorizing even more pronouns.

The story is stuffed full of quotes from people who have no connection to Chapman or Combs, ready to express their anger about something no one directly involved in the events discussed is remotely angry or upset over. If victimhood-by-proxy were an Olympic event, the Times would have interviewed all the medalists in this category.

Not offended in any way, shape, or form, was really the only person who should matter in the whole story: Tracy Chapman. She didn't comment to the Times (neither did Combs), and the only thing the folk singer ever said about it was positive, issuing a statement to Billboard reading, "I never expected to find myself on the country charts, but I'm honored to be there. I'm happy for Luke and his success and grateful that new fans have found and embraced 'Fast Car.'"

That's it, that's all of it. But that's not good enough for the left. Chapman is a very private person, never having "outed" herself (something the Times curiously only casually mentions while screaming she's gay throughout the story on her behalf), who is perfectly fine with a white guy covering her song. It's the activist left, the people running the Democrat Party and media, who aren't.

The same mentality that looked at polls showing only 5 percent of Native Americans even remotely offended by the name "Washington Redskins," yet caused those offended, bored, white activist suburbanites to crusade on behalf of the people who weren't offended to change the name to Commanders, are back on behalf of Chapman. They aren't bothered by the fact that she isn't bothered; she's just a delivery device whose opinions or desires don't matter. It's the ultimate in opportunism and where the modern left lives.

It's how the left governs - they declare their positions to be the will of the people without regard for all the evidence to the contrary and scream, "This is what democracy looks like," while suing every time they lose a referendum or vote of elected representatives, decidedly the exact opposite of what democracy is.

Leftists are bad people who seek to divide everyone on issues big and small for their own advantage; they do nothing by accident. They may not ruin everything they touch, but it's not for lack of trying.

Rate this:

2.7.18 Ten Reasons Why Affirmative Action Died (2023-07-16 17:30)

The end of affirmative action was inevitable. The only surprise was that such intentions went terribly wrong and lasted so long.

First, supporters of racial preferences always pushed back the goalposts for the program's

success. Was institutionalized reverse bias to last 20 years, 60 years, or ad infinitum?

Parity became defined as an absolute equality of results. If “equity” was not obtained, then only institutionalized “racism” explained disparities. And only reverse racism was deemed the cure.

Second, affirmative action was imposed on the back end in adult hiring and college admissions. However, to achieve parity, remediation early at the K-12 school level would have been the only solution. Yet such intervention was made impossible by teachers’ unions, the rise of identity politics, and government entitlements. All opposed school choice, self-help programs, critiques of cultural impediments, or restrictions on those blanket entitlements.

Third, class, the true barometer of privilege, was rendered meaningless. Surrealism followed. The truly privileged Barack and Michelle Obama and Meghan Markel lectured the country on its unfairness — as if they had it far rougher than the impoverished “deplorable” of East Palestine, Ohio.

Fourth, affirmative action supporters could never square the circle of proving that racial prejudices didn’t violate the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the text of the Constitution.

What they were left with was the lame argument that because long ago, the 90 % white majority had violated their own foundational documents, then such past bad unconstitutional bias could legitimately be rectified by present-day “good” unconstitutional bias.

Fifth, supporters never adequately explained why the sins of prior generations fell on their descendants who grew up in the post-Civil Rights era.

Nor could they account for why those who had never experienced institutionalized racism, much less Jim Crow apartheid or slavery, were to be compensated collectively for the suffering of long-dead individuals. No wonder 70 % of the American people in many polls favored ending affirmative action, including half of African-Americans.

Sixth, there never was a “rainbow” coalition of shared non-white victimhood — a concept necessary to perpetuate the premise of white privilege, supremacy, and rage, so integral to race-based reverse discrimination. More than a dozen ethnicities earn more per capita than whites.

Asians have been subject to coerced internment, immigration restrictions, and zoning exclusions. Yet on average, they do better than whites economically and enjoy lower suicide rates and longer life expectancies.

The arguments for affirmative action never explained why Asians and other minorities who faced discrimination outperformed the majority white population. As a result, affirmative action ended up discriminating against Asians on the premise they were too successful!

Seventh, no one ever explained when affirmative action was to apply. Blacks, for example, were vastly “overrepresented” in merit-based professional football and basketball. Yet no one demanded “proportional representation” to address such “disparate impact” despite the underrepresentation of all other demographics.

Yet if Blacks were “underrepresented” in baseball, then reparatory measures were supposed to address that fact — even if Latino players were “overrepresented” and whites “underrepresented” as well. No one in our race-obsessed culture, of course, objected that white males died at twice their demographics in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Eighth, in our increasingly intermarried mass-immigration society, few could adjudicate who was what, or much less what standard gave one racial preference. In lunatic fashion, pink, blond Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren became Harvard’s first “Native American” law professor due to her “high cheekbones.” Light-skinned Latinos were considered marginalized, while some darker Italians or Greeks were not.

Ninth, an odious wokism absorbed affirmative action and changed it into something even more abhorrent — as the original spirit of the Civil Rights movement was trashed. So Americans were asked to stomach a return to distasteful segregated dorms, “separate but equal” graduation ceremonies, and racially exclusive workshops.

Tenth, and finally, affirmative action was insidiously destroying meritocracy. That hallmark American value of tribally-blind inclusivity had once explained why the nation outshone the world by discarding the old class prejudices of Europe. But increasingly, this value seemed to have been abandoned.

When Stockton Rush, the late captain, and inventor of the ill-fated Titan deep-sea explorer, was quoted postmortem bragging that his company had no need of “old white guys” with long military expertise in submarining, Americans realized that woke racial discrimination was not just repulsive, but could get you killed.

A nation whose pilot training, medical-school admissions, and military high command promotions were increasingly adopting racial, gender, or sexual-orientation essentialism was a country headed for the sort of Third World tribalism characteristic of failed states abroad.

Ultimately, the court finally stepped in to end this unconstitutional aberration, more like the old Soviet commissariat than our ideals of equality under the law.

The American people concurred. And the only regret seemed to be, why not sooner?

2.7.19 WH Does Damage Control After Kamala Harris Claims ‘Reducing Population’ is Critical for ‘Climate Change’ (2023-07-16 17:32)

The White House scrambled to clean up the mess the Biden Administration left after Vice President Kamala Harris claimed “reducing the population” is needed to combat so-called “climate change.”

“When we invest in clean energy and electric vehicles and reduce population, more of our children can breath clean air and drink clean water,” Harris initially said.

However, the White House “corrected” the transcript of the speech, claiming Harris meant to say “pollution,” despite the vice president not addressing the “error” while speaking.

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The @WhiteHouse handlers made a slight adjustment to a speech by @VP Kamala Harris on fighting "climate change." pic.twitter.com/O3NqshFHhF
— Slay News (@Slay_News_) July 15, 2023

Democrats have a long reputation for sounding the alarm on so-called "climate change," panicking Americans by saying a black hole will soon swallow up the Earth unless we all stop eating meat and driving gas-powered cars.

In 2019, the biggest progressive liberal of them all, Bernie Sanders, was asked by a school teacher whether it would even be possible to fight global warming given that "the world's population has doubled over the last 50 years."

"Absolutely, yes," Sanders blurted out.

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During her speech, Harris told the audience that the "clock is not only ticking, it is banging," adding, "We must act."

However, a 2022 study found that the Democrat's repeated warnings of global warming are greatly exaggerated.

"We need to remind ourselves that addressing climate change is not an end in itself, and that climate change is not the only problem that the world is facing," the study concluded. "The objective should be to improve human well-being in the twenty-first century while protecting the environment as much as we can."

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2

KAMALA HARRIS: "When we invest in clean energy and electric vehicles and reduce population, more of our children can breath clean air and drink clean water." pic.twitter.com/MbMiDx9Xoc
— RNC Research (@RNCResearch) July 14, 2023

2.7.20 Republican Party missing from Blue Earth County Fair (2023-07-23 11:44)

All I see are Somalis at the DFL which is disgusting. They came from the Soviet Somali Democratic Republic. Where is the Republican Party damn it. The CIA and FBI are Stasi around Mankato. There is no basis in truth here other then they're remaking us in Marxist-Leninist Soviet America. DFL has a Vladimir Lenin Statue in Seattle. They do 5 year plans all over Minnesota. Chinese communist party owns farmland in Blue Earth County.

2.7.21 Senior State Department Officials Targeted by Chinese Hackers (2023-07-23 11:45)

Senior State Department officials were hacked by a spying group linked to Beijing, which likely provided inside information about U.S. policy toward China amid a series of trips to the country by top Biden officials.

Hundreds of thousands of U.S. government emails were hacked, including the U.S. ambassador to China, Nicholas Burns, and the assistant secretary of state for East Asia, Daniel Kritenbrink.

It appeared that Secretary of State Antony Blinken's email account wasn't directly infiltrated in the hack, nor were those of his circle of top advisers, one of the people familiar with the matter said. Instead, the hackers appeared to focus on a small number of senior officials responsible for managing the U.S.-China relationship.

The estimate of individual emails accessed is rough and could grow, the people said.

"For security reasons, we will not be sharing additional information on the nature and scope of this cybersecurity incident at this time," a State Department spokesman said. "The department continuously monitors and responds to activity of concern on our networks. Our investigation is ongoing, and we cannot provide further details at this time."

The White House National Security Council declined to comment.

Kritenbrink accompanied Blinken on his trip to China a month ago, and Kritenbrink, Burns and Blinken all attended meetings with senior Chinese officials and with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Before the high-level talks in Beijing, Kritenbrink led a trip of less senior officials to lay the groundwork. [...]

The recent hack was pulled off by leveraging a flaw in Microsoft's cloud-computing environment that has since been fixed, according to the company, which said more than two dozen organizations globally were affected. Fewer than 10 organizations were compromised in the U.S. and each of those appeared to have a small number of individual email accounts directly accessed by the hackers, a senior U.S. cybersecurity official said last week. It isn't known whether any federal agencies beyond the State and Commerce departments were targeted. (WSJ)

While the attack was "surgical in nature," meant to glean information from "high-value victims," U.S. officials downplayed its impact.

"It is China doing espionage," Rob Joyce, the cybersecurity director at the National Security Agency, said at the Aspen Security Forum on Thursday. "That is what nation-states do. We need to defend against it, we need to push back on it, but that is something that happens."

U.S. officials said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo's email was also compromised in the operation.

2.7.22 John Kennedy Calls Out Dems for Their Racism Against Clarence Thomas in a Way Only He Can (2023-07-23 11:50)

On Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee did their markup on "ethics" legislation that is targeting the U.S. Supreme Court, all while hit pieces have come out against the conservative justices, especially Justice Clarence Thomas. Republicans have vowed to block it from passing. While the Supreme Court Code of Conduct Act did only pass out of Committee with votes from all Democrats, Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) got an amendment in there that condemned racism against Thomas.

KENNEDY: Democrats' SCOTUS Ethics Bill "is dead as fried chicken!"
pic.twitter.com/aVrC5xxy26

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) July 19, 2023

The amendment passed unanimously, which might be somewhat surprising, given that Democrats themselves are the ones who have gone after Thomas with such vitriol, as has been brought up at previous hearings. They also took some time in getting there with their support. As is the case whenever Kennedy makes a point, his remarks about the amendment are one for the ages.

Kennedy needed to dumb it down for Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) who needed clarification that the amendment would only refer to Thomas, as she insisted in bringing up "we condemn racism against any justice."

"I don't understand the reluctance to accept the fact that Justice Clarence Thomas, who happens to be a black man, has been the butt of a lot of racist statements. And I don't understand reluctance to condemn those. And that's what my amendment does," Kennedy pointed out, as he went on to make clear "I don't want it watered down, I don't want to bubble wrap it, I don't want to sugar coat it, I want to say, big as Dallas, the United States Senate condemns all these racist things that have been said against Justice Clarence Thomas."

Kennedy also reminded that another senator could simply put forth another amendment "to condemn every racist thing that has ever been said in the history of ever," which he would vote for.

It's not as if the examples aren't there. Less than a week before the markup took place, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who once served in the U.S. House of Representatives, likened Thomas to the house slave Stephen in "Django Unchained," who turned on his fellow slaves and was loyal to his sadistic master to the very end.

"Are there are any of the other nine justices who have been subject to such racist attack in the last few days from a sitting Democrat in the state of Minnesota, who disgusting-has anyone else been subject to those kind of attacks as frequently, as brazenly, and as unapologetically," Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) asked Kennedy during the time that had been yielded to him.

Kennedy in his response emphasized "it would be unconscionable for this Committee not to condemn this kind of rhetoric against Clarence Thomas!

. @SenJohnKennedy offered an amendment condemning racist comments made against

Justice Clarence Thomas by Democrats like Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison likening Thomas to a house slave.

Senator Whitehouse encouraged all Democrats to vote against the amendment*
pic.twitter.com/kebDR3BVyN

— Carrie Severino (@JCNSeverino) July 20, 2023

Shockingly, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) "urged my fellow colleagues to vote no," since he claimed "I consider this to be not relevant to the matter at hand, and further it specifically requests the Biden administration to inject itself politically into a law enforcement decision that the Biden administration, I think quite properly, has avoided getting involved with."

Kennedy became increasingly passionate as the discussion went on, reminding that the scope of the amendment is condemning such remarks like those from Ellison. "I mean does anybody here support that kind of rhetoric? I don't! I don't think you do! And this kind of rhetoric hasn't been directed towards... John Roberts... Neil Gorsuch, it's been directed towards Clarence Thomas! And it's un-American, it's unconscionable, and I can't believe we wouldn't condemn it!"

"I don't care how many lawyers can dance on the head of a pin," Kennedy said, responding to Whitehouse's callous reasons given for why the amendment shouldn't pass. "Don't-don't try to pretend that this is, uh, some sort of a, uh, technical, um, mistake in this amendment! It's not complicated! You don't have to be a senior at Cal Tech to figure it out!"

As he reminded once more, his amendment "says all of this stuff at Clarence Thomas, calling him a house slave, and all other racist, disgusting statements, we condemn! Now you either condemn it, or you don't. And that's all this amendment does."

Whitehouse, in response, claimed that he does condemn such rhetoric, but explained that his issue was with the amendment calling on the Biden administration to protect the justices.

Responding once more, Kennedy again emphasized "is a real simple amendment," and pointed out that "if you support the racist things that have been said against Clarence Thomas, then vote against this amendment. If you think the things that have been said about Clarence Thomas are racist to the marrow and you condemn them, then vote for this amendment."

Cruz would later speak to address the arguments against the amendment. When it comes to Klobuchar's concerns, Cruz offered "I would point out objectively the venom and the bigotry directed at Clarence Thomas is qualitatively different than any of the other eight justices," explaining that the resolution gave multiple instances of such examples.

In response to Whitehouse's arguments, Cruz also highlighted the absurdity of Whitehouse saying "'well, the part that is offensive of this is that it calls on the Department of Justice to enforce the law.' Just stop and repeat that to yourself again. So now it is the position of Democrats that it is unacceptable for the Department of Justice to enforce the law!"

You either condemn the racist attacks on Justice Clarence Thomas, or you don't.

After a long discussion today, my Democrat colleagues on the Judiciary Committee finally agreed to condemn the disgusting racism that many have aimed at Justice Thomas. pic.twitter.com/tBptrybb0q

— John Kennedy (@SenJohnKennedy) July 20, 2023

With such a focus, Whitehouse reminded that the Biden administration, despite how he believes they behaved "quite properly," has taken a hands off approach when it comes to better protecting conservative justices, which has been sharply criticized, including by Cruz.

After somebody leaked the Dobbs v. Jackson decision on May 2, 2022, protests began illegally protesting at the homes of conservative Supreme Court justices almost immediately. Then White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki downplayed the severity, and instead emphasized how people were upset and there was a lot of "passion" about the ramifications of Roe being overturned. She also indicated we "continue to encourage" people to picket.

In early June of last year, in reaction to Dobbs, someone showed up with the intent to assassinate Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and looked to target other conservative justices.

While Whitehouse defended the Biden administration's approach, such an approach resulted in U.S. marshals being directed to "to avoid, unless absolutely necessary, any criminal enforcement."

Oh, So That's Why Leftists Weren't Arrested Outside the Homes of Supreme Court Justices <https://t.co/ExE8blnZGw>

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) May 3, 2023

2.7.23 Trump Warns Democrats About Sending Him to Prison (2023-07-23 11:55)

Former President Trump is warning Democrats that the implications of sending him to prison would be for the extremist party, saying it would be very dangerous.

During an interview on The Simon Conway Show, Trump was asked how his massive group of supporters would react if the 45th president were behind bars at the hands of the Left's politically motivated scheme—sparked by Special Counsel Jack Smith.

"I think it's a very dangerous thing to even talk about," Trump added, "because we do have a tremendously passionate group of voters, much more passion than they had in 2020 and much more passion than in 2016. I think it would be very dangerous."

As Trump anticipates a third indictment over his alleged role in the January 6 Capitol Hill protests, the former president attacked Smith claiming the Democrats are trying to interfere again with the next presidential election.

"The Democrat prosecutors waited years to bring charges so that they could interfere with the 2024 presidential election. they are getting, however, big blowback!" Trump wrote

on Truth Social.

Continuing his rant about the corrupt legal system operating under President Joe Biden, Trump said that for the first time in history, “the USA, lawyers, and the legal system itself, are under siege... all a gift from crooked Joe Biden, Merrick Garland, and deranged prosecutor, Jack Smith!”

Smith is currently investigating Trump’s efforts to overturn the election and his actions related to the January 6 insurrection. According to a letter addressed to the 2024 GOP hopeful, the far-Left Biden official told Trump that he is the target of the probe.

Gov. Brian Kemp (R-GA) and former Gov. Doug Ducey (R-AZ) have reportedly been contacted by the federal special counsel instigating the matter.

In 2020, Arizona “voted” for a Democratic presidential candidate for the first time since 1996. Trump reportedly called Ducey several times, asking him to investigate the possibility of election fraud after mainstream media called the state for Biden.

At the same time, Kemp— a long-time supporter of Trump— avoided making any endorsements for Trump’s claims that the Georgia election was somehow interfered with.

2.7.24 Another Reason Republicans Lose (2023-07-23 11:59)

Did you see the big “IRS Whistleblower” hearing this week? You probably didn’t, CNN and MSNBC ignored it live, ABC News didn’t bother mentioning it and even Fox cut away from it when The Five started because there’s news and then there’s ad sales they don’t want to blow out. But don’t worry, you didn’t miss much. Not that there wasn’t news, big news, to be had in the hearing, because there was. It’s just that it was buried under Democrats lying and Republicans grandstanding. If you want to know yet another reason how it is Republicans manage to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, look no further than that mess on Capitol Hill this week.

There’s a place for Congressional hearings, at least there used to be. There was a time when they were used to gather information to inform legislative decisions, or to expose corruption everyone knew was unacceptable. Now nothing is unacceptable, absolutely nothing. If some disgustingly corrupt act is committed by someone on “your team,” who cares?

If Hunter Biden had videos of himself murdering prostitutes, Jamie Raskin would declare they probably had it coming, and it’s a private matter anyway. These leftists truly are that disgusting.

Not a single Democrat at that hearing had any concern or serious questions for two career IRS employees who alleged the First Family has engaged in systemic corruption and tax evasion. They simply didn’t give a damn.

It wasn’t surprising that Democrats wouldn’t care, they didn’t care when Barack Obama sent the IRS after his political opponents or when Bill Clinton raked in a fortune in campaign contributions from the Communist Chinese government, including \$200,000 laundered

through a Buddhist Monastery populated by monks who'd taken a vow of poverty. Democrats simply do not care about corruption by Democrats any more than they care all the murders of Democrats by Democrats in Democrat-controlled cities. If something or someone can't help them politically, they might as well not exist.

As disgusting as that is, it's not surprising. It's what Democrats have been for at least the last 50 years. The real problem is what Republicans have become.

That hearing wasn't ultimately worthless because of the witnesses, they were great, or the Democrats, who didn't fail to be themselves. It was rendered mostly worthless because Republicans are simply horrible at messaging.

Maybe it's because cable news only seems to have a group of about 15 Members of Congress they cycle through constantly? That leaves the rest to wither on the vine, making hearings be seen as more of an audition for cable news hits than information-exposing events?

Something has to explain why Republican after Republican asked essentially the same questions; why they each wasted time not only thanking the witnesses for being there, but pronouncing them heroes for doing so. You may think it rude that I'd suggest they skip the formalities, but each only had 5 minutes to ask questions, every second matter. Peacocking for the camera is a sign of narcissism and is not helpful.

What Republicans should do in hearings like this is every single member should cede their time to one or two Congressmen who understand how to question witnesses for maximum impact. Imagine if a skilled questioner had drilled down on the complete story with these witnesses. Morning Joe would've been lost to counter a thorough explanation of the entire story of how people who produce nothing raked in millions from industries they know nothing of and managed to avoid paying any taxes on that money for so long the statute of limitations ran out, meaning they've gotten away with it completely.

Instead, we got what? Marjorie Taylor Greene showing in-action nude sex pictures of Hunter Biden with likely trafficked, possibly under age (who knows?) prostitutes on television. Noting against MTG, they're real pictures and Biden needs to be investigate for his part in human trafficking and possible child sex ring. (Because, honestly, would it surprise you at all?)

Yet, by showing those pictures you gave the left something to be outraged over; a distraction they desperately needed. All they'd had to that point was a few members whining about the arrest rate of black people and Donald Trump. In other words, these one-trick-ponies only had their one trick...until they were given a new one.

I get that these people want to be seen doing their jobs by their constituents, but their job is more than being seen on TV. It's supposed to be accomplishing things, and in hearings getting information. They didn't do any of that, at least not in any lasting way. They repeated themselves and bored their audience.

President Ronald Reagan famously said, "On my desk in the Oval Office, I have a little sign that says: There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." He was probably the last Republican with that mentality. Now it's "I don't really know or care what the point of this is, I just know if I come up with a good line

there's a chance I'll get booked on Fox."

2.7.25 Maoist Thugs Target Christians, With Support From Justice Roberts (2023-07-23 12:47)

With all that's happening in the United States and the world, you may have missed the ruling from our "conservative" Supreme Court on May 29. The "conservative" Supreme Court Chief Justice, John Roberts, joined the four liberals in ruling that churches are not entitled to First Amendment protections and that they have to obey the dictates of liberal governors.

Two days later, St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. went up in flames as rioters were threatening to attack the White House. The more than 200-year-old church sits near Lafayette Park, across from the White House, where Secret Service agents and police fought with communist agitators.

It appears that arsonists have better access to churches than the parishioners.

In other anti-Christian actions, graffiti was written on St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York that included BLM, standing for Black Lives Matter, and "F-k F-k" in red letters. In Louisville, Kentucky, professional protesters broke windows in the rectory of the Cathedral of the Assumption. They were then boarded with plywood.

I returned to the disgraceful Roberts ruling after contemplating the Bible readings for May 31, including the Gospel of John 20:19-23, about the disciples of Christ hiding in a room because they were scared of the religious authorities of the day. Suddenly the resurrected Christ appeared and they were given the spirit of God and the authority and power to defeat the demonic forces of the secular world. The rest, as they say, is history, except that many of today's ministers are hiding in rooms, conducting fake church services over the Internet, some with "spiritual communion," rather than the real thing. They defend their sanitary "church services" with a camera crew while wondering when the state will decree that they can meet with real people. Many such "virtual" services conclude with requests for online donations for the invisible collection plate. After all, the religious bureaucracy that depends on the state for favors and even grants must be fed.

I watched one "virtual" service over the Internet on Sunday night, with the minister reciting the reading about Jesus appearing to his disciples after rising from the dead and showing them his hands and his side, the evidence of the crucifixion. The reading says, "The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'"

The minister reading these words didn't seem to comprehend the significance of telling the story of disciples hiding in a room while he read the Bible from a small room himself, filmed in isolation so it could be presented to his flock through a computer connection.

It's a fact that many of today's ministers are afraid to challenge the secular authorities of this era, such as "Lockdown Larry" Hogan, the Republican Governor of Maryland, or Gavin

Newsom, the Democrat Governor of California.

A major exception is South Bay United Pentecostal Church in Chula Vista, California, which challenged Newsom's lockdown order that resulted in the Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling against the First Amendment.

Charles LiMandri, the Chief Litigation Counsel for the Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund, handled the case for the church and its pastor, Bishop Arthur Hodges. He insists it was not a complete dismissal of South Bay Church's case but was "largely based on the very high standards required for our obtaining an emergency injunction." LiMandri noted that Roberts's ruling was "a solo concurring opinion with little to no precedential value." That is true but the implications of this 5-4 opinion are nonetheless startling. This is a real decision with practical consequences.

The four dissenting justices, Brett Kavanaugh, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Neil Gorsuch, said the California restrictions were clearly discriminatory. The dissenting opinion noted, "In response to the COVID-19 health crisis, California has now limited attendance at religious worship services to 25 % of building capacity or 100 attendees, whichever is lower. The basic constitutional problem is that comparable secular businesses are not subject to a 25 % occupancy cap, including factories, offices, supermarkets, restaurants, retail stores, pharmacies, shopping malls, pet grooming shops, bookstores, florists, hair salons, and cannabis dispensaries."

That's right: the secular authorities have determined that marijuana businesses selling dope have more rights than churches. It appears that the stoners are more inclined to vote the way the liberals want them to vote.

The conservative Catholic writer, Vic Biorseth, noted that it was the "conservative" Roberts who approved Obamacare when he changed the nature of the legislation in a controversial court ruling and "illegally adjudicated it into law." Yet, it was unconstitutional on its face, to begin with. "So it doesn't matter what the law under consideration says, nor does it matter what the Constitution says; all that matters is the balance of the partisan division on the Court and which way the political wind is blowing at any particular moment in time," commented Biorseth.

The wind in today's "moment in time" is to close down churches while keeping pot shops, abortion clinics, and liquor stores open. That's how communist riots in the streets can be termed "unrest" and "peaceful" by the secular press. But when five members of the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice, accept this garbage, you know we as a nation are in deep trouble.

Biorseth concludes, "If a purposeful violator of the Constitution who is a sworn officer of the government is not a domestic enemy of America and a traitor, then there is no such thing, and the Constitution itself is without meaning, and America has lost its very purpose for being."

Those are strong words. But when Roberts joins the four liberal justices to restrict Christian worship in California, can we explain it any other way? And isn't it a fact that the churches, for the most part, have become slaves to the state, willing and even anxious to please the corrupt authorities?

2.7.26 Evil In The White House (2023-07-23 12:49)

Sound of Freedom lives up to the advance publicity, documenting “the true story of former government agent Tim Ballard who quit his job to rescue a little girl from sex traffickers in the Colombian jungle.” Ballard saved 123 people, 55 of which were children, from one mission alone.

Ballard, played in the film by Jim Caviezel, now runs Operation Underground Railroad, to continue the fight to rescue children from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

But the Ritter case is one more example of how the problem reaches deep into American society.

Ritter, recently interviewed by RFK Jr. about Russia’s war on Ukraine, was convicted of sex crimes in 2011 after exposing himself on a web camera while chatting with an undercover detective who identified himself as a 15-year-old girl.

In a shocking development, Tucker Carlson, formerly of Fox News, launched a new show and interviewed Andrew Tate, a so-called social media influencer who is presented as a role model for young men but has been accused of human trafficking and rape. Tate denies the charges and has sued the accusers.

The case of Hunter Biden, the son of President Biden, has also been linked to human trafficking.

Representative James Comer says one Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) at the Treasury Department “connects Hunter Biden and his business associates to international human trafficking, among other illegal activities,” involving foreign and American prostitutes. Comer and other Republicans on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform allege Biden’s violations of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act,

Hunter Biden’s lawyers have denied the charges and say their client is not associated with a human trafficking ring.

The Sound of Freedom only goes so far, in that it focuses on child trafficking networks in Latin America when the movie concedes at the end that pedophiles in the United States are the biggest customers.

Jeffrey Epstein’s deepest and darkest secret was that he was a practicing homosexual and that his entourage of young girls provided a cover story that actually made him seem “respectable” to the movers and shakers in New York and Washington, D.C.

On Thursday, in Washington, D.C., a group of conservatives is putting pressure on the Roman Catholic Church in America to stop facilitating illegal immigration and child trafficking.

Sheena Rodriguez, President/Founder of the Alliance for a Safe Texas, will speak on illegal immigration and child trafficking at a news conference at the National Press Club.

Since January 2021, there have been over 356,000 UACs (unaccompanied minors) encountered at the southern border, a majority of which have been released into the U.S....” notes Rodriguez. “The Biden administration has admitted they do not keep track of their

whereabouts when they are released into the U.S. With the use of taxpayer dollars, tens of thousands of children are simply missing.”

Tara Lee Rodas, a Health and Human Services whistleblower who testified before Congress, said she discovered that children entering the U.S. “are being trafficked through a sophisticated network that begins with being recruited in the home country, smuggled to the US border,” and then delivered to a “sponsor,” some of whom are criminals and traffickers and members of Transnational Criminal Organizations.

The Roman Catholic Church had a role — and still has a major role — in facilitating the foreign invasion of the U.S. Indeed, in the face of declining membership, new immigrants arriving in the United States, including many Catholics from Latin America, provide new members and priests. Catholic Charities is among the NGOs which facilitate the migration of illegal aliens into the interior of the country

While one focus of the Thursday news conference is cutting off government contracts to the Catholic Church which facilitates illegal immigration, an equally serious problem is the failure by men of God and their employees to protect children in their care.

Director Amy Berg exposed the cover-up of pedophilia in the Catholic Church in her 2006 Oscar-nominated documentary, “Deliver Us from Evil.”

To put it bluntly, the Catholic Church bureaucracy in the United States has surrendered to the forces of Cultural Marxism. Cultural Marxism in the Catholic Church is one focus of the Thursday news conference, as participants intend to highlight the bishops’ “politicking for the Democratic/communist agenda.”

The Archbishop of Washington, Wilton Gregory, has decided that Joe Biden is a Catholic in good standing and deserves Holy Communion.

Wilton Gregory’s predecessor, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, resigned from his leadership of the archdiocese in 2018 after he was accused of covering up sexual abuse. His predecessor as archbishop of Washington was the disgraced former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the highest-ranking U.S. Catholic leader ever to be removed for sexually abusing a minor.

As a prosecutor and Attorney General in California, Vice-President Kamala Harris refused to take on sexual abuse by priests. As she began her presidential run, Harris announced that she supported the decriminalization of “sex work” – prostitution.

One of the main forces behind this movement is the Soros-funded “Sexual Health and Rights Project,” which pushes special “rights” for prostitutes.

The church under Pope Francis has its own playbook, with Cardinal Peter Turkson — a close adviser to Francis — telling “Axios on HBO” the Catholic Church “plans to be increasingly active on climate, refugees and racial equity.” In other words, change the subject.

Hence, at the Thursday event, Trevor Loudon will speak on the man-made climate change hoax.

With the Sound of Freedom projecting over \$85 million total cumulative box office revenue through Sunday, with a strong \$27 million box office draw in the second weekend of the

film's domestic release, it is clear that much more work needs to be done.

The film notes that the United States is the largest consumer of child sex in the world but it is also true that the U.S. is the world's largest consumer of illegal drugs.

Today, the U.S. has become a narco-state, with George Soros having provided \$300 million to weaken or dismantle laws against illegal drugs.

"We see trafficking of illegal drugs and human trafficking often happen together," notes the Drug Enforcement Administration."

In fact, the failure to stop human trafficking may be directly related to the demoralizing impact of drugs as a sabotage weapon waged by our enemies, blinding the American people to the reality of evil in our midst.

Clearly, Hunter's sexual activities, including fathering an illegitimate child with a stripper, was related to his heavy drug use, including cocaine.

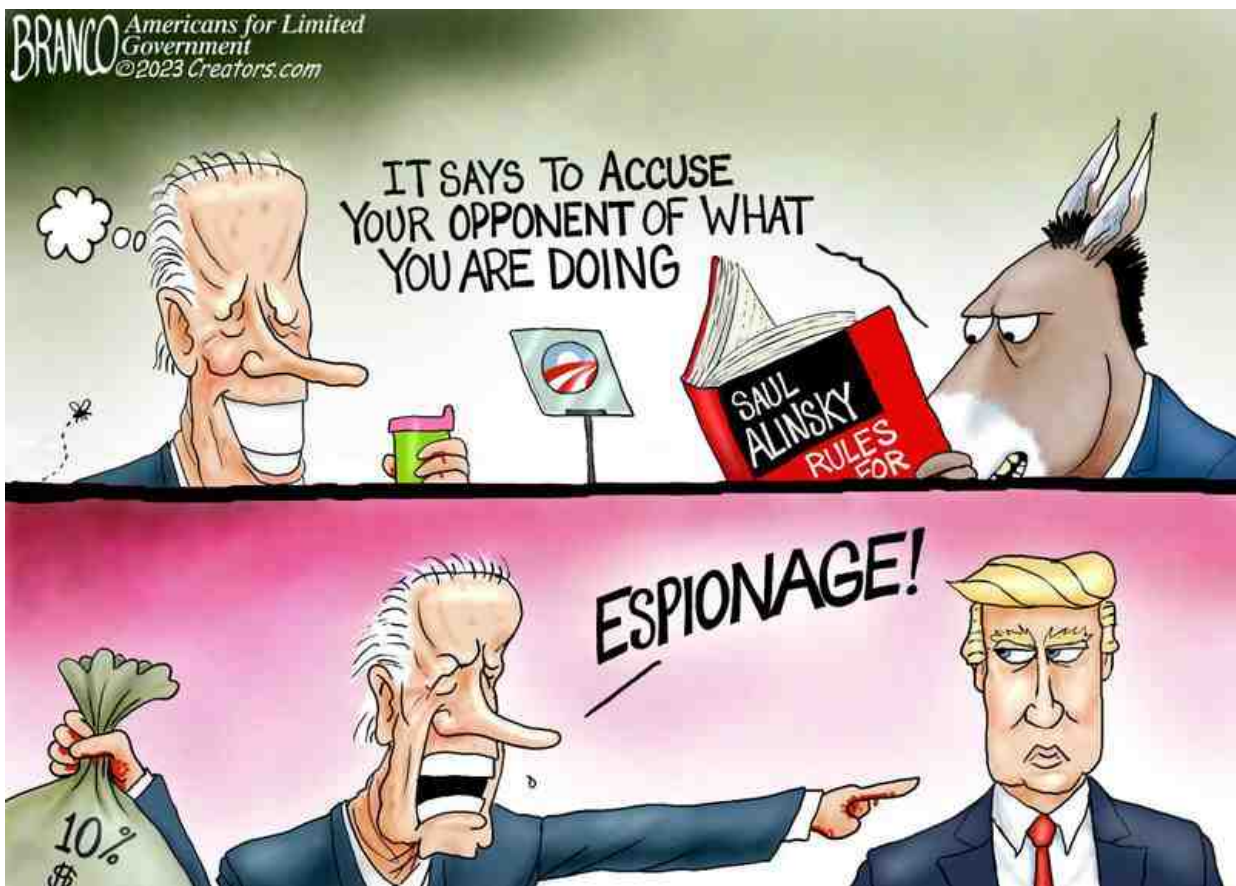
Now, with the failure of the Secret Service to reveal who brought cocaine into the White House, the situation has become more dangerous.

On July 12, the agency disclosed, "the Secret Service received the FBI's laboratory results, which did not develop latent fingerprints and insufficient DNA was present for investigative comparisons. Therefore, the Secret Service is not able to compare evidence against the known pool of individuals," defined as the "hundreds of individuals who passed through the vestibule where the cocaine was discovered."

Thus, the Secret Service's investigation was "closed due to a lack of physical evidence."

It is apparent the investigation was closed because the agency did not want to identify the obvious culprit or his enabler.

2.7.27 Joe Biden using Saul Alinsky - Rules for Radicals on his opponents.
(2023-07-27 09:58)



1. <https://iainthegreat.files.wordpress.com/2023/07/afb072723dapr-800x0-1.jpg>

2.7.28 Will This Be Enough to Seal the Deal on a Biden Impeachment? (2023-07-27 10:03)

former associate of Hunter Biden will testify in a closed-door hearing about what he witnessed working with the president's son, specifically the sleazy government access deals that have placed the Biden White House in the impeachment crosshairs. Based on information obtained by a confidential source of the FBI, Joe and Hunter Biden each allegedly received \$5 million in bribes from Burisma.

As we've known for months, Hunter was on their board to provide a legal shield, which they got. While serving as vice president, Joe fired the prosecutor looking into the Ukrainian energy company. The FBI's FD-1023 report from their confidential human source (CHS) also notes that a ledger of the payment and recorded phone calls exist.

After the Hunter Biden laptop was authenticated, something many of us knew back in October 2020, it revealed the entire operation, including shell companies established to funnel money garnered from some Romanians. The Biden administration continues categorically denying that Joe was aware of Hunter's activities, a defense that was gutted by a member of Biden's own party.

YIKES: Rep. Dan Goldman was trying to prove that Joe Biden was not implicated in the IRS Whistleblowers' allegations, but instead accidentally showed that Joe Biden did discuss foreign business dealings with his son Hunter. pic.twitter.com/6nyEhfm36G
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) July 19, 2023

Thank you, Democrat Representative Dan Goldman, for helping expose another lie told by Joe Biden! pic.twitter.com/Sho4zFEs2s
— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) July 20, 2023

And now Devon Archer is going to hopefully shed more light on this emerging scandal (via ABC News):

Devon Archer, a former best friend and business associate of Hunter Biden in Ukraine, is expected to testify under oath to Congress this week that President Biden met with dozens of Hunter's business associates while he was serving as vice president between 2009 and 2017.

Fox News Digital has confirmed that Archer has been subpoenaed by the House Oversight Committee and could testify as early as Thursday, July 27. The expected testimony could cast further doubt on President Biden's repeated claims that he had no knowledge of his son's foreign business dealings or of having any influence on them.

Miranda Devine, a New York Post columnist and Fox News contributor, reported Monday that Archer, 48, is expected to tell the House Oversight Committee about meetings he witnessed attended by both Bidens — Hunter and Joe — either in person or via telephone. During the meetings, Hunter would specifically introduce his father to foreign business partners or prospective investors, Archer is expected to testify.

[...]

According to Devine, Archer, who was also a director, is expected to testify that the call between Joe, Hunter and Hunter's business partners came after he and Hunter had dinner with the Burisma board at the Burj Al Arab Hotel. Archer and Hunter reportedly left the meeting and traveled to the Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach when Vadym Pozharskyi, a senior Burisma executive, called them and said Zlochevsky needed to urgently speak with Hunter.

The two Ukrainians then reportedly joined Hunter and Archer at the Four Seasons, where Pozharskyi specifically asked Hunter, "Can you ring your dad?"

According to Devine, Archer is expected to testify that Hunter called his father, who was in Washington, D.C., at the time, and introduced the Ukrainians by their first names. Then the younger Biden emphasized that the Burisma executives "need our support."

Then-Vice President Biden acknowledged the Ukrainians, as he did in other calls with Hunter's business partners, but kept the conversation brief, Archer is expected to testify.

Joe needed the Justice Department to interfere in all investigations into his son. The roads lead back to him. The IRS built a compelling case for charges stemming from Hunter Biden's bogus system of finding tax-deductible events, namely his trysts with hookers. Joseph

Ziegler and Gary Shapley presented their case for why the DOJ meddled in their investigations.

Both men are respected and reliable sources. Ziegler is a gay Democrat. Nothing disreputable about these two IRS agents who have come forward to detail the alleged malfeasance they experienced from DOJ officials. It's why Democrats or Hunter Biden's attorneys couldn't smear them.

We got a glimpse into the narrative that Joe and Hunter tag-teamed these government access deals when the latter's WhatsApp messages to a Chinese counterpart were revealed, which caused Hunter's attorney to lose it. It seems Mr. Archer will add more to it in the coming days.

...Goldman was trying to show that the witnesses did not mention a substantive role of Joe Biden, Shapley immediately noted that it did mean that he came to discuss one of the Hunter's deals. The President continues to deny that fact. <https://t.co/h3KQUfI743>
— Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) July 19, 2023

...Unfortunately, time ran out. With a few more minutes along this line, Goldman could well have sealed the case for the appointment of a Special Counsel.
— Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) July 19, 2023

2.7.29 Democrats Try to Go After Moms (2023-07-27 10:07)

Progressives love to label people they don't like, makes it easier to "otherize" and round them up later, and progressives love to round people up. What they call people has little to no connection to reality, but being disconnected from reality is a feature of the left, not a bug. So, who are the latest "monsters" these left-wingers have decided to demonize? Moms.

Yes, you read that right, moms. The lady who made your PB &Js, who dressed you as a child, the woman who gave you life! Now moms are the problem in politics, according to the Democrat Party.

How did moms top the list of problematic Americans? Simple: they cared about their kids.

To be more specific, they cared about what was happening in their kids' schools, what they were being taught, and conversely, what they weren't being taught.

Moms noticed the left-wing indoctrination while "distance learning" during COVID. They were able to pay attention and heard an endless stream of anti-American lies and gender insanity with their own ears. They were also able to see the education of their children take a backseat to these and other left-wing concerns. Kids couldn't read or do basic math, but they knew to dutifully obey whatever pronouns some classmate in need of therapy insisted was real on a daily basis. Moms were not amused.

The thing about moms is, provided they aren't awful or junkies or named Biden, they care about all kids, but they really, really care about their own kids. Millions of moms caring about their own kids is an army; a political force that will not take "no" for an answer.

Moms mobilized over what the political left is doing to their kids is a force Democrats haven't faced before. The suburban mom was their backbone, their saving grace. Suburban white women carried Democrats over finish line after finish line. But that was before they were caught messing with their kids. (Note I said "caught," not started. Democrats have been indoctrinating kids for years, parents just didn't see how bad it was for themselves until school via Zoom. That changed everything.)

After they noticed, moms started showing up to school board meetings demanding to know what the hell was going on. Democrats lied. More insanity and denials of reality flowed from schools, Democrats lied about it. Finally, voters led by these mothers tossed out school board members across the country. That was a bridge too far for the left.

Democrats do not care if you don't like them, they don't care if you oppose them, it's when you strip them of power that they take the gloves off. The number of children hurt, the amount of lives damaged does not matter as long as they maintain their grip on power. Moms, particularly white suburban moms, turning on them is not acceptable.

Enter the Southern Poverty Law Center and the media.

The SPLC, in the way a parasite protects its host, declared moms who'd rather their kids learn how to read, write and do math than how to best get their genitals removed so as to avoid the social stigma of being the only "normal" kid in class, to be "extremists."

The Associate Press, themselves very good lapdogs for Democrats, burped up a DNC press release using the SPLC as its backbone. "'Mama bears' may be the 2024 race's soccer moms. But where the GOP seeks votes, some see extremism," the piece was titled.

On what planet is that news? How does left-wing groups not liking parents paying attention to what they're doing to kids a shock to anyone? Roaches run when you turn on the lights, Democrats freak out when you see them clearly.

The AP wrote, "These conservative mothers and grandmothers, who in recent years have organized for 'parental rights,' including banning discussion of gender identity in schools, have been classified as extremists by the Southern Poverty Law Center."

In case you're playing the home game, the score of number of people shot after being inspired to do so by either these mothers or the SPLC is 0-1. Yes, the SPLC has gotten more people shot than all these "extremist" mom groups combined. (The SPLC inspired a man to march into the Family Research Center determined to murder everyone there because they'd been declared a "hate group." He shot a security guard who was ultimately able to stop him from following through on his mass murder plot.)

As always happens with Democrats, they drive whatever buzzword of the moment into the ground and strip it of all meaning. Everyone and everything is called "racist" so frequently that no one pays attention to it anymore. What they don't call racist they call sexist, again to unimpressive results. Every Republican presidential candidate over the last 25 years has

been called either “Nazi” or “worse than Hitler,” or both.

Now “extremist” is their new scare word, only no one is scared. No one cares, at least no one with an IQ larger than their shoe size. Which means it’s the perfect motivator for the MSNBC/CNN crowd and will help Democrats keep their base in line. Thankfully, it doesn’t work on normal people anymore.

2.7.30 Hunter Biden Is Still Under Criminal Investigation, and Now We Know What for (2023-07-27 10:12)

When Hunter Biden agreed to a sweetheart plea deal back in June, his attorneys said they were confident the federal investigation and case against him was over.

"With the announcement of two agreements between my client, Hunter Biden, and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware, it is my understanding that the five-year investigation into Hunter is resolved," Biden attorney Chris Clark said at the time.

U.S. Attorney David Weiss contradicted that statement and said there is an ongoing investigation, but didn't specify why or what they were looking into. When Hunter's plea deal fell apart in federal court Wednesday, we found out why.

During a back and fourth with U.S. District Court Judge Maryellen Noreikam, Department of Justice prosecutor Leo Wise was asked if the government was looking at charges for violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). He said yes, explaining the plea deal offered to Hunter Biden didn't protect him from future prosecution.

□□□

Today, the Department of Justice revealed Hunter Biden is under investigation for being a foreign agent.

— Oversight Committee (@GOPoversight) July 26, 2023

Recommended

‘On the Same Team’: DOJ Exposed for Colluding With Hunter Biden’s Legal Team

Katie Pavlich

NBC’s Tom Winters says on MSNBC the plea deal is in jeopardy after Hunter Biden’s legal team demanded the deal also cover *future* prosecution of the First Son, even if they’re not directly related to the charges filed thus far.

Obviously, the judge & prosecutors disagree. pic.twitter.com/Klf7T2PXFh

— Curtis Houck (@CurtisHouck) July 26, 2023

Hunter made millions of dollars overseas on behalf of his family and with his father, President Joe Biden. He never registered as a foreign agent.

According to the Department of Justice, "The penalty for a willful violation of FARA is imprisonment for not more than five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both. Certain violations are considered misdemeanors, with penalties of imprisonment of not more than six months, a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both."

2.7.31 Note to the GOP - Having a Clear Strategic Plan Is Far More Important Than Short-Term Tactical Wins (2023-07-27 10:23)

There remains but two months before the current federal fiscal year ends September 30th. Half of that remaining period will be spent by lawmakers in their home states and districts during the traditional August recess.

When the Congress reconvenes after Labor Day, the Republican Party will be in a position to either strengthen its currently slim majority in the House, or risk losing it.

Much depends on whether the GOP can discipline itself to stick to a strategy that is laser-focused on the 2024 election, rather than on passing bits of legislation playing largely, if not solely to its base for short-term gain.

A key factor in this equation is whether the appropriations process – which even in the most nonpartisan of times presents a messy picture to the American electorate – can be managed by Speaker McCarthy in such a way as to avoid a government “shutdown,” which already is being whispered in the corridors under the Capitol dome.

Some Republican budget hardliners claim to not “fear a government shutdown,” and others look to “stare down” Democrats. The fact of the matter is that in recent decades, so-called “shutdowns” rarely benefit the Party orchestrating them.

Forcing a shutdown over specific issues (even very important ones), such as spending on abortion or constructing a few more feet of a border wall, may reap short-term political gain, but likely will come with long-term political harm.

Historically, pushing the budgetary process to a stand-off with a president of the other political party rarely has demonstrably helped the party driving the process in the Congress; and then only if it is part of a coherent and consistent longer-term strategy.

The best example of this is in the late 1995-early 1996 budget showdown between the then-new GOP House majority led by Speaker Newt Gingrich and President Bill Clinton, who at the time was still licking his wounds after a historic shellacking in the 1994 mid-terms.

At the time, that three-week long “shutdown” was a public relations nightmare for the House GOP majority (I know, I was there as a freshman Member from Georgia). But the long-term benefit was historic.

The goal of the stand-off was not simply to pass a fiscal year budget or to force Clinton to accept as part of that budget bill a particular appropriations rider. Rather, the plan was to draw a bright line in the sand that told Clinton and the American electorate that the new Republican majority was serious about balancing the budget and putting the nation’s fiscal

house back in order.

The strategy worked wonderfully, and by the middle of the very next year (1997) both the House and the Senate had passed, and Clinton had signed legislation that in fact balanced the federal budget for the first time in nearly three decades.

Contrast that strategically planned budget showdown with the much longer (at 34 days) December 2018-January 2019 stare-down between the Democrat-controlled House and Republican President Donald Trump. At the time, Trump was demanding funds for his preferred border and immigration policy initiatives. The resulting impasse was part of a tactical skirmish, not of a strategic plan.

In the end, the 2018-2019 shutdown, despite being the longest in our history, achieved little if anything of lasting importance for either political party or for the country.

Whether the American people will witness yet another “shutdown” this Fall (or next year even as voters will be casting early ballots in many states) remains uncertain. It is not clear if McCarthy will agree to even a partial omnibus “reconciliation” spending bill this year if there remain one or more of the dozen appropriations bills that could not win a majority of votes before the end of September. Whether the far-right Freedom Caucus insists absolutely that favored abortion or immigration limitations be included in certain of the spending measures also remains to be seen, but the signs already are indicating moves in that direction.

Becoming bogged down in a shutdown slugfest may please former President Trump cheering from the sidelines, but it would be a strategic blunder for the Party; signaling to the electorate beyond the GOP base that the current leadership lacks the strength and the vision to effectively govern, and perhaps even to be awarded a second, two-year term in the majority.

Governing is a serious game, and maintaining and projecting a clear and consistent strategy is far more important than any short-term tactical achievements. Unfortunately, with rare exceptions in recent years, the GOP seems not to understand that principle.

2.7.32 The Southern Poverty Law Center’s True Agenda Is the Destruction of America’s Culture (2023-07-27 10:25)

Since its founding in 1971 as an organization with the laudable mission of fighting the KKK and other white supremacy groups, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has raised hundreds of millions of dollars with which it has leveled countless legal and public relations attacks against various “hate groups.”

Money aside, however, the SPLC is today a shell of its former self, beset with internal unrest and displaying a muddled focus. The Center no longer maintains the aura of invincibility that for decades made it essentially immune from serious legal challenges.

Much of the Center's current troubles can be traced to [1]2019, when a major scandal centered on sexual harassment allegations forced the ouster of its co-founder and long-time leader, Morris Dees. Perhaps as a result of that major setback, the SPLC appears to have lost its sharp edge, and now appears to be targeting "hate" groups for no clear reason other than because it can.

The Dustin Inman Society, based in a northwest suburb of Atlanta, Georgia, has found itself in those SPLC crosshairs because it has, since its founding in 2005, vocally opposed illegal immigration.

The SPLC on the other hand, has long defended immigration, so it is no surprise that for years, the Center expressed its dislike for the Dustin Inman Society and its founder, D.A. King. That changed, however, in 2018 when the [2]SPLC decided to list the small Dustin Inman Society as a "hate group," and noted it as such on the Center's website.

In response to being thus targeted by the SPLC, the Dustin Inman Society sued the Center for defamation. In a decision last month, the federal judge before whom the lawsuit is pending in Alabama, ruled that the [3]SPLC would have to submit to discovery by the Society. The judge's refusal to dismiss the complaint likely surprised the SPLC's lawyers, because [4]for the first time it opened the door for a group targeted by the Center to be able to conduct extensive discovery probing how and why it decides to attach the "hate group" label to an organization.

This move will likely have far-reaching consequences for the formerly invulnerable SPLC.

The SPLC's problems are not limited to the setback it suffered in the Dustin Inman Society lawsuit. One of its own lawyers, [5]Thomas Webb Jurgens, was arrested earlier this Spring and charged with domestic terrorism as one of the suspected Antifa agitators involved in violent disturbances surrounding the construction of a new police training center in Atlanta (in January, another [6]protestor was killed by police in an exchange of gunfire at the same construction site).

In contrast to its listing of the Dustin Inman Society as a "hate group" because of its lawful advocacy against illegal immigration, the SPLC steadfastly has [7]refused to label Antifa similarly.

More

baffling even than the SPLC's double standard for deciding what groups merits the "hate" label, is the Center's ongoing fascination with "male supremacy." Earlier this week, for example, an opinion piece featured on the SPLC website declared that the [8]. . . Threat Of Male Supremacy Is Growing. Interestingly, however, for a category of "hate" that is supposedly "growing," there appears only a single such entity on the Center's most recent national [9]"Male Supremacy Hate Map."

That

recent article on "male supremacy" was preceded in April of this year by a much longer piece also on the Center's website, titled [10]Male Supremacy Is At The Core Of The hard Right's Agenda authored by Cassie Miller. It is this treatise that displays the true motive for the Center's focus on such an odd topic as "male supremacy" - a vehicle by which to target traditional American culture and those who the SPLC considers to be its supporters; namely, Ron DeSantis (whose picture figures prominently in the opinion piece), Donald Trump, and the Republican Party.

Also featured in Ms. Miller's screed against masculinity is a photo montage of a traditional American family, consisting of a father, a mother, and two children walking hand-in-hand. That picture appears directly beneath the heading "HATEWATCH," and it tells you everything you need to know about the true agenda of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

1. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-reckoning-of-morris-dees-and-the-southern-poverty-law-center>
2. https://www.ntd.com/defamation-lawsuit-against-southern-poverty-law-center-moves-forward_911629.html
3. <https://www.axios.com/local/atlanta/2023/04/26/splc-dustin-inman-society>
4. <https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/05/10/left-leaning-media-ignore-conservative-groups-massive-legal-victory-southern-poverty-law-center/>
5. <https://nypost.com/2023/03/06/splc-attorney-among-23-charged-in-atlanta-cop-city-attack/>
6. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/20/us/cop-city-activist-killed-dekalb-county-medical-examiner/index.html>
7. <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2020/06/02/designating-antifa-domestic-terrorist-organization-dangerous-threatens-civil-liberties>
8. <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2023/05/23/after-incel-attack-male-supremacism-growing>
9. <https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map?ideology=male-supremacy>
10. <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2023/04/18/male-supremacy-core-hard-rights-agenda>

2.7.33 The 'Loneliness Epidemic' That Is Hurting Americans and America (2023-07-27 10:28)

When the Surgeon General of the United States this month issued an official "Advisory" on [1]Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation, I was inclined to dismiss the paper as just another example of the federal government spending taxpayer money on an issue over which it has no reasonable jurisdiction.

While the Loneliness "alarm" published by Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy is in fact another taxpayer-funded project over which there is no reasonable basis in the Constitution giving Uncle Sam legitimate jurisdiction, the nation's "Top Doc" is actually onto something here, even if he fails to consider one of its primary causes.

Humans are fundamentally "social animals," and for millennia social relationships have provided the context in which cultures develop and thrive (or not). Social discourse is the medium in which advances are made, in everything from the sciences to philosophy and from medicine to government structure. Failure to engage socially on both individual and collective levels can be, and demonstrably are, factors contributing to stagnation at the micro and macro level.

The very form of government and social structure embodied in our Constitution is framed as a "social compact." Without social interaction, interpersonal discourse, and mutual understanding, the relationships between the citizenry and government, and the checks and balances incorporated into our constitutional republic, will no longer provide the essential ingredients for us to remain free.

There are, as Dr. Murthy describes in his Advisory, other very real benefits to social interactions.

The Surgeon General notes that isolation from fellow humans has been shown to diminish an individual's mental and physical health, even leading to increased risk of heart disease, stroke, and dementia. The good doctor goes a bit far in declaring that loneliness can contribute to a person's mortality to the same extent as "smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day" – a claim that led to [2]headlines, but which [3]lacks sourcing that clearly provides evidence for the conclusion. However, his thesis that socially active people generally are more likely to enjoy healthy lives than those who live apart from others, is well-made.

Additionally, Dr. Murthy correctly identifies that among the loneliness epidemic's primary causes is the pervasive influence and easy availability of alternatives to inter-human interaction – namely, social media and other forms of non-personal communication. As illustrated graphically in the Advisory, over the past nearly 20 years, individuals' "social engagement with friends" and with "others" have dropped dramatically, even as evidence of "social isolation" has increased significantly.

While the two-year long COVID pandemic increased both individual and social loneliness, the trends noted by the Surgeon General long predate the onset of COVID and the socially disastrous government responses to it (a valid topic for a far more lengthy "advisory").

Dr. Murthy does not limit himself to identifying the problem and causes of loneliness and social isolation. In his Advisory and in subsequent [4]interviews, he offers a number of ways to begin what will be at best a long road to recovery. Among these are recommendations to "scale back on social media" (an understatement), to actually "listen" and pay "attention" to other people (in my view, a completely lost art in today's

hyper-partisan political arena), and to “serve others” by civic volunteerism.

Kudos to Dr. Murthy for emphasizing the importance and benefits of such activities.

One

factor that exacerbates the isolation and loneliness pervasive in contemporary America, but not discussed by the Surgeon General, is the divisiveness that results directly from the fact that in today’s society, great emphasis is placed on driving people and groups apart based on all manner of real or perceived factors.

It

actually makes it harder for individuals to interact positively with each other when they are bombarded with signals if not demands that people must be differentiated and categorized according to artificially designated barriers such as race, gender, or political preferences.

Dr.

Murthy’s Advisory did not touch on this major cause of social disruption, and perhaps it was beyond the scope of his effort; but if we are to take his warning to heart and actually endeavor to solve the problem he identifies, it is imperative that we openly and actively resist the ongoing drive for social tribalism and ostracism.

1. <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>
2. <https://news.yahoo.com/surgeon-general-says-loneliness-epidemic-124216940.html>
3. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5598785/figure/F1/>
4. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/02/well/mind/loneliness-isolation-surgeon-general.html>

2.7.34 Longstanding U.S. Neglect Toward the Western Hemisphere Is Paying Dividends - For China (2023-07-27 10:30)

For more than a decade, China has been carefully and strategically making commercial, diplomatic, and even military inroads in Latin America and the Caribbean. Now, Beijing reportedly is building a military facility on the northern coast of Cuba, less than 100 miles from the United States. Our response has been less than impressive.

It is not as if Beijing’s multi-pronged strategy to increase its presence in the Western Hemisphere has escaped Washington’s attention. Even in the late 1990s, I and several other Members of Congress expressed concern that Chinese companies (all of which ultimately answer to the governing Chinese Communist Party) were establishing commercial beachheads at both entrances to the Panama Canal, just as Panama gained control of the strategic waterway pursuant to the treaty signed with the Carter Administration in 1977. Our concerns fell on deaf ears.

In 2018, a smiling President Xi Jinping was photographed next to Panama’s president, alongside the Panama Canal.

Chinese trade with countries in the region has soared in recent years, ballooning from \$180 billion in 2002 to \$450 billion last year. China's investments have included everything from mining and agriculture projects to infrastructure and communications technology that has surveillance capabilities.

China's diplomatic gains in the region have been no less significant, with Paraguay the only South American country that still recognizes Taiwan.

Even in the Bahamas, a one-hour flight from Miami, China's presence is far larger than ours. Not coincidentally, the U.S. Navy maintains a major test and training facility in the Bahamas.

While there is little the United States can do to directly thwart China's commercial and diplomatic moves in the region, our failure to articulate and maintain anything approaching a coherent strategic policy for the Western Hemisphere in the decades since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, has made it easy for China to make inroads.

Moreover, the relations Beijing has established in the area can negatively impact our interests.

For example, two years ago a U.S. Coast Guard cutter was refused permission to dock at a facility in Argentina. Argentina has been a long-time ally of the United States, but now maintains strong political and economic ties with China.

Of far more immediate concern than the lengthening list of Chinese economic and political moves throughout the region, is Beijing's growing presence in Cuba, a mere 90 miles from the southernmost tip of Florida.

President Obama giddily reestablished relations with Cuba in 2015, but appears to have secured nothing in return that might have provided some assurances that our adversaries, including China and Iran, would not be permitted to use the island nation for their own nefarious purposes.

In a move that reportedly started in 2019 but which now appears to be gathering speed, China is constructing a military facility on Cuba's northern coastline; one that reportedly incorporates training and intelligence gathering capabilities.

U.S. military leaders, especially Army General Laura Richardson who heads the U.S. Southern Command, appear clearly to understand the gravity of these Chinese moves. In remarks during her 2021 Senate confirmation hearings, Richardson echoed her predecessor's concerns, in telling Senators that China's plans in the region are "very sophisticated" and clearly are designed to project "sustain[ed] military power."

Unfortunately, the red flags raised by our own military leaders do not appear to have had a discernible impact on congressional leaders or the White House in terms of articulating any meaningful policy initiatives.

The Biden Administration does little more than repeatedly express "concern" about China's burgeoning influence in the area.

Although some Members of Congress have raised red flags over China's surveillance capabilities in Cuba, on the broader level little is happening on Capitol Hill. The Senate, for example, has failed even to pass a bill (S.1519, the "Western Hemisphere Security Strategy Act of 2023") that would simply direct the Departments of State and Defense to develop a "multi-year strategy" for our "diplomatic and security" policies in the hemisphere.

Meanwhile, the GOP-led select committee charged with examining strategic competition with China appears more concerned with narrow, partisan issues than with understanding and proposing measures to counter China's aggressive moves in our own backyard.

Mention has been made recently about the "Monroe Doctrine" as a possible tool with which to address the problem. It will, however, take far more than a policy articulated in 1823 designed to thwart further European colonization in the Western Hemisphere, to address the extremely serious threats now facing us in the region, especially from Communist China.

2.8 August

2.8.1 Dem Accidentally Proves Men Using Women's Locker Rooms Is a Bad Idea (2023-08-02 14:19)

Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN) accidentally proved that men claiming to women should not be changing in women's locker rooms during Thursday's House Judiciary Committee about the dangers of so-called "gender affirming care."

Former college swimmer Paula Scanlan said she was mortified having to change in the same room as Lia Thomas, a biological man, during her time competing. Cohen suggested Pennsylvania State University should have put up a barrier inside the women's locker room to appease both sides.

"I think Penn didn't deal with your situation like they could've and should've. Putting up some barriers in the women's area of the locker room," Cohen proposed.

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) asked Scanlan if Cohen's idea is an appropriate way to handle the situation.

"I think by Representative Cohen admitting that we need barriers [in women's facilities] acknowledges there are biological differences between men and women. And by acknowledging that we need to have private spaces that are separate from each other, why can't we just use the locker rooms that we've always used, men's and women's? If you're acknowledging that we need protection and privacy from these men, then you're acknowledging the locker rooms we've always used are the correct ones," said Scanlan.

MIC DROP: @PaulaYScanlan DESTROYS @RepCohen on biological men using women's facilities ☐☐

"By Rep. Cohen admitting that we need barriers [in women's facilities] acknowledges there are biological differences between men and women.

And by acknowledging that we need to have... pic.twitter.com/TzA2EewCru
— Rep. Matt Gaetz (@RepMattGaetz) July 27, 2023

Here is my testimony from this morning. I ask everyone no matter your political affiliation to listen. I believe everyone deserves dignity and respect, but to suggest that my own experiences and trauma need to be disregarded to protect a group that's deemed "marginalized" is...

— Paula Scanlan (@PaulaYScanlan) July 27, 2023

2.8.2 Land of the 'Free' and Home of the Victims (2023-08-02 14:24)

While in England in 1766, Franklin wrote an editorial on this attempt of the government to "help" the poor, entitled *On the Price of Corn, and Management of the Poor*. In it, Franklin articulated a principle he held throughout his life with respect to poverty and work: "I am for doing good to the poor, but I differ in opinion of the means. I think the best way of doing good to the poor is not making them easy in poverty but leading or driving them out of it. In my youth I traveled much, and I observed in different countries, that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves, and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer."

As a result of Great Britain's welfare programs of the time, Franklin made clear the result in the people they tried to help: "Under all these obligations, are our poor modest, humble, and thankful; and do they use their best endeavors to maintain themselves, and lighten our shoulders of this burden? On the contrary, I affirm that there is no country in the world in which the poor are more idle, dissolute, drunken, and insolent. The day you passed that act, you took away from before their eyes the greatest of all inducements to industry, frugality, and sobriety, by giving them a dependence on somewhat else than a careful accumulation during youth and health, for support in age or sickness. In short, you offered a premium for the encouragement of idleness, and you should not now wonder that it has had its effect in the increase of poverty."

Franklin and our founding fathers wanted nothing of England's welfare state and high taxes. They wanted people free to earn their own way and capitalize on their God given skills and drive to pursue and earn their own happiness and success.

It's clear that America under Democratic leadership is intent on redefining what "free" means. To a Democrat, giving "free" benefits is what true "caring" is all about. Let the suckers earn a living so we can tax them and give their hard-earned money to every freeloader we can subsidize. Want proof?

Even though rejected by the Supreme Court, Biden has promised that college students, who willingly took on contractual loans to attend college, are owed \$468 billion in college debt relief to be funded by the American taxpayer. He's working already to cancel student debt for some.

The Keep LA Housed Coalition wants Democratic Mayor Karen Bass to cancel rent debts or extend protections for tenants who cannot meet the city's Aug. 1 deadline. It's time for them to pay the rent they owe. Landlords who were "left powerless" against nonpaying tenants who took advantage of a free ride during the pandemic now want the rent these tenants owe.

New York City, once proud to be called a "sanctuary city," has given out flyers communicating "There is no guarantee we will be able to provide shelter and services to new arrivals." Mayor Adams has finally admitted, "There is no room in New York. New York cannot take more. We can't." No more "free" sanctuary!

Many cities and states are considering or already giving "free" reparations to blacks at a local level. On a federal level, some measures have been proposed including one by Rep. Cori Bush's, D-MO,

that would provide \$14 trillion in compensation for government policies that she has deemed as racist and contributed to the wealth gap between Black and White Americans.

Illegal immigrants, staging a protest in Chicago, demanded free housing, paid job training and easy access to amenities like food, water, and “safe” neighborhoods. One sign at the demonstration explained it well, “You Promised Us Safe Living Conditions, But Our Rights Have Been Violated.”

Liberals in Illinois passed a law ending the requirement that those charged with a crime must post bail in order to be released from jail while they await trial. Unless a judge intervenes to hold them, even a violent perp could be assigned a court date and then be released without payment! When New York eliminated cash bail, crime skyrocketed.

Instead of calling for protesters who threw rocks, assaulted police officers, burned down buildings, and burned up cars to be incarcerated and forced to pay for damages, the National Lawyers Group has issued a class action suit demanding that the George Floyd protestors in New York be compensated up to \$10K per protestor because of police abuse. Only in America can rioters expect to be paid instead of incarcerated.

Democrat Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey has asked for residents to volunteer their homes for “free” to host illegal immigrants “for a few days, until longer-term accommodations can be arranged.” Why is this necessary? The nearly 40 hotels and motels Healey has rented out across the state, all funded by tax-payers, are completely full and even overflowing with illegals.

Get the picture: Free rent, free food, free student loans, free job training, free rooms, and freedom from accountability. Why work? Why save? Just elect Democrats willing to pay for your vote. The homeless

scenes in urban America sound very much like what Franklin saw in England. When you reward irresponsible behavior, you get more who are willing to be dependent on government's "free" benefits.

2.8.3 Video Game Collecting Is Getting Ridiculous (2023-08-02 14:26)



Standard

Oh Boy, This is going to be a long one and I wont even touch on half the stuff I want to touch on. I could write a book about this right now. I'm going to briefly touch on a couple of YouTubers I am a HUGE fan off, but I will let their videos speak for themselves for the most part. I will include links to their channels at the end so please check them out. but here goes

Video game collecting is fast becoming one of the most popular past times around. Almost everyone will say they love video games, and those who don't, well, they are either lying or haven't really tried it. From the mind exercising puzzle action of Tetris, to the faced paced platforming of Sonic the hedgehog, From the non stop action of call of duty to the more laid back exploration of world of Warcraft, and from the epic story driven Assassins Creed, to the real world simulation of driving fast cars that is Forza, video games have something to offer literally everyone. Whether you're into sports, board games, education, fantasy, gritty crime solving TV drama, or anything else, there's not one or two games directed at you, there's an entire genre of games.

So with a whole medium that crosses the same level of production as Hollywood blockbuster movies, with an active immersive experience that you just don't get with film, its no surprise that video gaming is one hell of an industry. With developers receiving budgets to rival marvel franchise movies, some of the greatest directors, writers, artists, and musicians being highly invested in the works, and the advent of mobile gaming on our phones, you can see why I believe that video games are set to replace television and movies in much the same way that television and movies once replaced theatre as the number one entertainment medium.

The video game collectors market has blown up in recent years, with companies like Nintendo, Capcom, Square Enix, and more pushing their IP's to new levels and refreshing them for the next generation of gamers, its not hard to see why. When Square Enix promotes its latest Final Fantasy game and gamers fall in love with it they look at the franchise, they read the reviews and hear the hype of the previous games, in this case they will read about Final Fantasy VII, often cited

as not only the greatest Final Fantasy game, but the greatest JRPG of all time. If you love this game and that one is better... its a no brainer that you're going to want to buy an original PlayStation and give it a go.



[1]

This is where the issues come in. Now if you want a copy of Final Fantasy VII, Or the original Silent Hill, Metal gear solid, Resident Evil, or whatever it is that has you drooling for the classics, its going to hit you where it hurts. Your pocket. For a decent playable boxed copy of one of these games you are going to be paying about the same amount as a brand new retail copy of a game for the current generation of systems. This wont hurt you, if you were going to spend that money on video games anyway, but this DOES hurt the game manufacturers. A copy of Final Fantasy VII for instance may have been passed around a lot since it was first bought. The Developers may have made, say £20 profit on the original sale, but if its been sold 4 or 5 times passed between collectors and people wanting to play it in the intervening 20 years, well that could mean that over £200 has exchanged hands on this one copy of the game and the developers have seen nothing from it.

No problem you may think, but really, yes. Big problem. The more people want to play a game that's out of print, the more the price on it goes up, its the basic rules of supply and demand. For a highly revered game the interest in it will only ever increase as the gaming market expands, and new gamers find out about the old classics. Ad to that, time, decreasing the amount of limited numbers of the games available and you have an ever increasing price, often putting the games out of the price range of your average gamer. Oh you want to play Earthbound on the SNES? Good luck with that. This isn't even a rare game, however its so amazing that everyone who hears about it wants to give it a go. And

lets not forget that once you have the game you need a machine to play it on. And time isn't kind to electronic devices. The more that break, the harder they are to find, the more expensive they become.

So here is where we see the issue. Video game collecting has now become far too expensive for the majority of people. And for no good reason. There are two kinds of collectors, Those who genuinely love a game from their childhood and would love to own a copy again, and want it for the nostalgia, for the memories and for the appreciation of the game as an entity, they love their games, and they couldn't care less about the value currently attached to them. This is video game collecting in its purest form, For this, Take a look at YouTube, The Happy Console Gamer Johnny Millennium, Pete Dorr, and the enigmatic AlphaOmegaSin are but a few of the more popular channels of people who fit this category. Listening to them talk about their passion its hard not to feel the love they have for their games and they are bound to stir nostalgic cravings for your childhood. Johnny Millennium has a boxed copy of Earthbound sitting right behind him on the shelf and its currently worth over \$1000, but he doesn't give a shit. Its his game and he loves it and you've got more chance of getting AlphaOmegaSin to stop swearing than you have of getting Johnny to part with his Earthbound.

The second kind of collectors are profit turners. They have no love for the games. They don't care about gaming. Most of them don't even play half the stuff they pick up. They trawl retail stores, Facebook, Flea markets, boot sales, eBay, Craigslist, Garage sales. Buying up anything and everything for the lowest price possible, and then they sit on it. They wait until it will fetch a profit and throw it up on EBay for a ridiculous sum. The biggest example of this in recent times was the release of the 20th anniversary PlayStation 4 Limited edition model. The PS4 currently sells for about £300 brand new. And people got a chance in 2014 to buy a very limited edition anniversary edition of the PS4, its no different from a regular model, it does nothing special, the only difference is that its not black, but is the classic grey colour of the original PSone. The PlayStation logo is also in full colour just like the original one. This item was sold, not for an inflated price, but for just a little over the retail value, it was a collectors edition, something for the fans who love the system. But who bought them? Guess.



[2]

Within days of these limited edition systems shipping, they began appearing on ebay and as of the moment I write this they are fetching as much as £3000. That's right, you could buy 10 PS4 systems brand new, OR just one in a different colour. And here is the thing, there isn't just one or two for sale, there are LOADS. In the UK alone there are currently 79 listed on ebay. And since only 12,000 were made world wide, America and Japan being by far the largest markets we can assume that only a small chunk of this went to Europe. And in Europe Germany and France would likely have the lions share. Even at conservative estimates that puts around 10 % of all the PS4 Limited editions in the country currently unopened and listed on eBay for ridiculous sums of money. Those who would appreciate this console for what it is and what it represents, cant get one.

Another massive point of contention is Stadium games for the NES. A boxed copy can set you back \$30,000. A loose cart can fetch \$3000. And the thing is, its not even a good game. In fact its shit. And to top it off, the exact same game is available easily and cheaply on the NES as the game was recalled almost immediately and rebranded as World Class Track Meet. So you can play the quite frankly abysmal game for cheap, but have to sell a kidney to get it with a slightly different sticker.



[3]

So how can we fix this? How can we ensure that people who want access to the media they want can get it for a fair price? Well, WE cant. But There is someone who can. Nintendo can. Microsoft can. Sony can. All of these companies now have online stores and consoles with massive hard drives. If for instance Resident Evil or Final fantasy VII were released on the online market, this is pretty much ZERO outlay. They could sell the game for £5, it would sell thousands of copies. And I mean thousands. And it would all be profit in Square Enix's pocket. This is a business model that has Kept SEGA alive and able to pump out god awful bastardised Sonic game after god awful bastardised Sonic game. Since they dropped out of the console market nearly 15 years ago there hasn't really been a console released that hasn't seen a compilation of their old games from back when they didn't suck. Hell even the PS2, Xbox, and GameCube got a Megadrive games compilation and those were consoles that were actually competing with the Dreamcast.

Did you know that EVERY SINGLE Sega Megadrive game ever released fits on to a 2GB SD card? That EVERY SINGLE Super Nintendo game fits on to a 2GB SD card? That every single Gameboy, NES, Master Sytem and Game Gear game combined, fits onto a 2GB SD card?

And that Emulators exist?

And that these companies already have access to ALL of this. And it would take almost NO work to get this up and running?

Now many people will point to the Resident Evil 2 and Final Fantasy VII remakes coming out and say "Well why would they do this when it could hurt sales on these titles?" well the answer is, because it wont. The new generation of consoles launched were almost immediately swamped with Remastered HD versions of games that had been out for a while and were still on store shelves. The Last of us and Tomb Raider being the most notable titles, but this didn't hurt sales at all. Likely a release of Resident Evil 2 or Final Fantasy VII on Xbox Live and PSN would just boost popularity and excitement for the upcoming remake while lining the pockets of the developers so they have more to invest in future games.

Making things like this easily available for people who want to try these old games, means companies can continue to make money from their old franchises and continue to have income from them to put towards new and better games. It would also be a great way for them to judge what franchises people are still interested in. Its been 25 years since Konami released Sunset Riders. However amazing that game was how does Konami know whether its something people would be interested in seeing more of today? And more to the point, maybe if all of Konami's amazing classics were available this way it would generate enough money for Konami to show interest in its gaming division again and stop pissing their IP's up the wall.

So that's what I would like to see. Bulk additions to the online stores allowing anyone anywhere access to all of these great games. It benefits everyone from developers to consumer alike. And more importantly will cause serious damage to the second hand value of classic games allowing those who collect them for the love of owning the physical games they grew up with and have a strong emotional attachment to, to get hold of their games without having to auction off their children to afford.

If you got this far I urge you to go check out these guys, this is what Video game collecting should be about. not about financial gain but

about love for the whole lifestyle of being a gamer.

Johnny Millennium and Rob Man (The Happy Console Gamer Show)

[4]<https://www.youtube.com/user/HappyConsoleGamer>



[5]

AlphaOmegaSin (Warning, do not watch his videos if you are offended by hilarious swearing rants so skilfully verbalised that make the south park characters envious)

[6]<https://www.youtube.com/user/AlphaOmegaSin>



[7]

And Mr nice guy Pete Dorr

[8]<https://www.youtube.com/user/PeteDorr>



- [9]
1. <https://mylifeonlineforyou.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/ced-ff7.jpg>
 2. <https://mylifeonlineforyou.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/ps4-20th-anniversary-console.jpg>
 3. <https://mylifeonlineforyou.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/stadium-events1.jpg>
 4. <https://www.youtube.com/user/HappyConsoleGamer>
 5. <https://mylifeonlineforyou.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/screenshot-2015-05-23-at-8-43-32-pm-660x330.png>
 6. <https://www.youtube.com/user/AlphaOmegaSin>
 7. <https://mylifeonlineforyou.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/maxresdefault.jpg>
 8. <https://www.youtube.com/user/PeteDorr>
 9. <https://mylifeonlineforyou.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/hqdefault.jpg>

2.8.4 Extremism Is the New Norm Worldwide, but Christians Must Not Give In (2023-08-07 12:39)

The world we live in today is in a tug of war led by the loudest, reactionary nationalist and authoritarian movements I've ever witnessed in my lifetime. These movements have emerged on both the right and the left in various nations.

More specifically, Christians and other devout religious communities are often confronted by uncompromising hard-left and hard-right

political movements, with many individuals feeling forced to choose between two bad options.

The critical challenge for Christians today is to refrain from joining these extremist, nationalist movements to achieve their own goals. Instead, Christians ought to be demonstrating an alternative path that refuses to succumb to polarization.

In the West, political leaders and pundits are not shy to attack mainstream Christian values and the basic freedoms we have harnessed over the centuries. For example, if one doesn't ascribe to far-left cultural goals, they are mocked in the public square, shunned from their social circles, and sometimes even violently attacked.

More specifically, the pressure of the transgender agenda on minors seems uncompromising, with its activists embracing a type of fundamentalism. To be a biological female – and to refer to yourself as one – has somehow become controversial in our world today. What's more, if one challenges the tenets of the sexual revolution, and argues that in many ways it has demeaned and exploited women instead of liberating them, they're considered a bigot for even pursuing that debate.

Of course, the typical response by many Christian groups to these radical movements is less than satisfactory. Many Christians sadly rely on a system that confuses the truth with the law. The truth and grace Jesus embodied demonstrated a recognition of the immense complexity of life. Jesus met people where they were, considered the context of culture, and pursued the whole counsel of God as he sought to restore their souls. He showed us how to foster a multidimensional understanding of the truth, and speak the truth in love, rather than a harsh and strictly linear approach that tends toward legalism. We see the latter in right-wing Christian movements today, unfortunately.

Another example of uncompromising, polarizing movements is unfolding here in India. Where we used to be able to boast of our diversity of faiths and constitutionally protected religious freedom, we are now witnessing an alarming rise of a hard-right Hindutva faction. Their propaganda and ruthless tactics demonize and persecute [1]Muslim and [2]Christian minorities alike. Ethnic strife in the State of Manipur in northeast India has led to the systematic [3]destruction of hundreds of churches in Imphal and neighboring towns.

This will not be the last time ethnic cleansing takes place against demonized communities in India. And this crisis is certainly not isolated to India. Hatred of the “other” is the new currency of social discourse worldwide. Extremists appear to have taken their foothold everywhere.

We look further east to China and see that nation sliding further into their old ways of ruthless communism and secular nationalism. The CCP continues to force devoted Christian communities to subscribe to communist philosophy and compromise their genuinely held doctrinal beliefs. Uighurs continue to face persecution and ostracization as well, yet these Chinese Muslims continue fighting bravely for their rights as their [4]mosques are routinely torn down.

Decades ago, Francis Shaefer wrote of how Christians should respond to and live among those seeking to undermine our values. He called for active engagement and non-violent struggle in our quest to create an orderly world with Judeo-Christian values as our foundation. His wisdom ought to be considered again.

Living as people of faith who keep our Christian witness will not be easy, especially as evil manifests in new shapes and sizes. Authoritarian thinking has taken root not only in government but in smaller social circles as well, where freedom of thought and expression aren’t a priority, and religious convictions are treated as irrelevant.

There's no easy answer as to how we respond to these struggles.

Nevertheless, we must find a way to remain steadfast on our principles, strive for the Kingdom of God over the kingdom of secular dogmas, while also respecting those who believe differently than we do. It would be foolish to mimic the tactics of those who seek to force cultural revolutions on those who disagree with them. We have to avoid the temptation to return the favor.

We must also resist the path of least resistance, where we allow ourselves to be relegated to the outskirts of society, quietly submitting to those in power out of fear for our safety. Put simply, while not compromising their faith, Christians must resist the voices pushing them towards Christian nationalism and instead just remain Christians. We must remain the type of Christians Paul describes in his letter to the Corinthians, "Hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

In the Old Testament, the prophet Micah asks us, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Our mandate is still the same today.

In our attempt to preserve our faith convictions and restore cultural norms, our Christian character must not waiver, even though the flames burn hotter.

1. <https://freepresskashmir.news/2023/05/26/muslim-family-assaulted-by-hindutva-men-pregnant-woman-suffers-miscarriage/>

2. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2023/may/manipur-violence-churches-india-tribals-meite.html>
 3. <https://www.pillarcatholic.com/p/manipur-archbishop-249-churches-destroyed>
 4. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/30/china/china-yunnan-hui-mosque-protest-intl/index.html>
-

2.8.5 Let's Talk About 'The Weather' (2023-08-07 12:40)

It was a moment of reckoning for the Biden family in Washington D.C. this week when Hunter Biden's business partner, Devon Archer, made his way to Capitol Hill for a closed door interview with the House Oversight Committee. Heading into the day, there was much speculation about what he would say, given how closely he worked with the Bidens and how much he knew.

After a few hours, it was evident the testimony went poorly for Democrats when Adam Schiff protege Dan Goldman rushed to the cameras in a frantic attempt to drive a new narrative by moving the goal posts on Joe Biden's participation in dozens of calls – on speaker with Hunter's business associates listening in.

Sweaty and nervous, a rare state for the usually confident and arrogant congressman, Goldman insulted the intelligence of any American paying attention to the story and tried to argue Hunter Biden created the "illusion" of access to his father.

"There were niceties. And there was a hello. And [they] talked about the weather or whatever it was," Goldman said. "But it was never any business."

Before meetings at the White House, Robert Biden – Joe's brother – encouraged Devon Archer to buy a burner phone. As we all know, burner phones are typically used for discussions about the "weather."

Recommended

Attempting to spin, Goldman then claimed it was “preposterous” to think Joe Biden wouldn’t speak to his son about business.

“He [Joe Biden] never said that he has never spoken to anyone. He said that he had nothing to do with Hunter Biden’s business dealings,” he continued. “It’s kind of a preposterous premise to think that a father should not say hello to people that the son at a dinner with – the son is at dinner with, and that is literally all the evidence is.”

But it was Joe Biden who set the “preposterous” standard by repeatedly lying to the country and maintaining he “never” spoke to his son or Hunter’s business partners about their deals. There was never an “illusion” of access. The access was real, and the Biden brand landed millions of dollars in a number of bank accounts and shell companies. Joe wasn’t only in business with his son, he was the business.

Joe’s denial has always been a laughable claim, and a pile of evidence has disproved it for years. Hunter’s other business partner, Tony Bobulinski, exposed Joe Biden’s involvement during the 2020 presidential election. A media with intentions to protect the Bidens was not curious about Joe Biden being “the big guy” who got 10 percent. The FBI was also uninterested in accusations of bribery.

Archer made it clear then-Vice President Joe Biden had Ukrainian prosecutor Viktor Shokin fired because he was sniffing around Burisma’s corruption and making their aspirations of an initial public offering in the U.S. harder to attain. And while Archer’s testimony was focused on

Ukraine, Hunter's laptop shows his father was engaged with deals in China too.

"I am sitting here with my father and we would like to understand why the commitment made has not been fulfilled," a text message from Hunter Biden to a Chinese fund management company CEO states. "Tell the director that I would like to resolve this now before it gets out of hand. And now means tonight. I will make certain that between the man sitting next to me and every person he knows and my ability to forever hold a grudge that you will regret not following my direction. I am sitting here waiting for the call with my father."

Not to mention the recently released FBI-1023 form, which accuses Joe Biden of bribery.

"The FBI's Biden Bribery Record tracks closely with the evidence uncovered by the Oversight Committee's Biden family influence peddling investigation. In the FBI's record, the Burisma executive claims that he didn't pay the 'big guy' directly but that he used several bank accounts to conceal the money. That sounds an awful lot like how the Bidens conduct business: using multiple bank accounts to hide the source and total amount of the money," House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer said about the document.

I won't say the walls are closing in, because on Democrats, they never do — but at least the truth is out in the open and Americans can make up their minds about whether Biden sold out the country to make himself rich.

As for the weather, the heat is on, a storm is brewing, and impeachment is in the forecast.

2.8.6 Now a Disease from Biblical Times Is Likely Coming Over Our Unsecured Border (2023-08-07 12:42)

Move over, COVID-19, and say hello to leprosy. Yes, that leprosy, the biblical plague from the Old and New Testaments.

That's according to the CDC, which says that there is "rising evidence that leprosy has become endemic in the southeastern United States."

Leprosy, also called Hansen's Disease, is an infection caused by slow-growing bacteria called *Mycobacterium leprae*, according to the CDC. "It can affect the nerves, skin, eyes, and lining of the nose (nasal mucosa)." Up to 2 million people worldwide are permanently disabled from the disease, which can be transmitted by "prolonged, close contact with someone with untreated leprosy over many months." It is thought to be spread via respiratory droplets—or even contact with armadillos. The CDC, which now apparently believes in natural immunity again, says, "more than 95 % of all people have natural immunity to the disease."

But in a Research Letter published in the August 2023 edition of the Emerging Infections Diseases journal, researchers from the Kansas City University-Graduate Medical Education/Advanced Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery Consortium raised concerns about the rise in the number of cases in the U.S.:

1

Leprosy has been historically uncommon in the United States; incidence peaked around 1983, and a drastic reduction in the annual number of documented cases occurred from the 1980s through 2000. However, since then, reports demonstrate a gradual increase in the incidence of leprosy in the United States. The number of reported cases has more than doubled in the southeastern states over the last decade. According to the National Hansen's Disease Program, 159 new cases were reported in the United States in 2020; Florida was among the top reporting states.

Central Florida accounted for 81 % of cases in the Sunshine State—nearly 20 % of cases reported nationally.

The letter in the journal described the case of a 54-year-old man who sought treatment in a Florida dermatology clinic. "He denied any domestic or foreign travel, exposure to armadillos, prolonged contact with immigrants from leprosy-endemic countries, or connections with someone known to have leprosy." The man has been a central Florida resident for his entire life and "works in landscaping, and spends long periods of time outdoors" He was referred to an infectious disease program and was prescribed triple therapy with dapsone, rifampin, and clofazimine.

The Sun reports that a Texas man in his 20s was recently diagnosed with leprosy after months of battling a mysterious skin rash. "He was heavily tattooed and moved to the US from Samoa — where leprosy is still endemic — four years before he was diagnosed. After a course of antibiotics and surgery to repair damaged tendons in his hands, he is said to be improving.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, there are "about 200-250 newly diagnosed cases reported to the national registry each year. The largest number of

cases in the U.S. live in California, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, New York, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.”

Researchers said a high percentage of cases in the southern United States “were found to carry the same unique strain of *M. leprae* as nine-banded armadillos in the region, suggesting a strong likelihood of zoonotic transmission.” But while a recent systematic review “supports an increasing role of anthroponotic and zoonotic transmission of leprosy,” another study demonstrated that the cases in the eastern United States, including Georgia and central Florida, “lacked zoonotic exposure or recent residence outside of the United States.”

That led researchers to suspect “that international migration of persons with leprosy is a potential source of autochthonous transmission.” They noted that “The number of international migrants in North America increased from 27.6 million persons in 1990 to 58.7 million in 2020, so a link to migration may account for the increase in incidence of leprosy in historically nonendemic areas.”

According to the World Health Organization, “As per data of 2019, Brazil, India and Indonesia reported more than 10,000 new cases, while 13 other countries (Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania) each reported 1,000–10,000 new cases.”

So, not only are migrants bringing communicable diseases like COVID-19 and tuberculosis across the Southern border, but they’re also likely bringing leprosy. It’s been added to the Department of Health and Human Service’s (HHS) list of diseases with “public health significance,” according to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP):

1
2
3
4
5
6

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has designated the following conditions as communicable diseases of public health significance that apply to immigration medical examinations conducted in the United States:

Gonorrhea;

Hansen’s Disease (Leprosy), infectious;

Syphilis, infectious stage; and

Tuberculosis (TB), Active—Only a Class A TB diagnosis renders an applicant inadmissible to the United States. Under current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, Class A TB means TB that is clinically active and communicable.

HIV was removed from the list in 2009 at the behest of Barack Obama’s HHS. CBP notes that “an individual who is HIV-positive should not indicate that he or she has a communicable disease of public health significance when applying for an ESTA [Electronic System for Travel Authorization] based on his or her HIV status alone.” I’m sure that will comfort the young women and children infected with HIV and other STDs as they’re trafficked over the southern border.

By the way, you should know that this article will most likely be demonetized by the good folks at Google who don't want us talking about COVID-19 and other diseases coming over the border. The quote from the CDC above likely triggered the alarm that gets us demonetized. It's stupid, I know. We were right about nearly everything COVID-related for more than two years, while the legacy media got major parts of the story wrong—including that it likely escaped from a lab in Wuhan [TRIGGER!], that masks were basically useless in stopping the spread of the disease [TRIGGER!], and that there are side effects from the vaccines that no one wants to talk about [MAJOR TRIGGER!]¹—but we're still paying the price for telling you the truth and reporting inconvenient facts that the Big Tech gatekeepers don't want you to see. As a result, we will most likely make no money from this article—or a pile of others that have been demonetized recently. Here are a few just from the last few days.

2.8.7 What Do the Trans Radicals, Pro-Abortion Activists, and Sex Traffickers All Have In Common? (2023-08-07 12:45)

All three groups are strikingly similar in the ways they are radical, unreasonable, and fascist as they demand that everyone conform to their religion of child sacrifice.

The thread that connects all three is that they destroy the lives of children.

Once a parent hands their child over to a butcher (a.k.a. gender-affirming surgeon) to have their child's reproductive organs forever mutilated, that person could never change their mind later and admit they could have been wrong. To do so would be an admission that they destroyed their child's life. They must forever demand that everyone fall in line with the trans-radical agenda to avoid the fact that they destroyed the life of their beloved child.

In the psych world, we call it cognitive dissonance. The human mind rejects information that clashes with a person's beliefs. The mind of a parent who has disfigured a child cannot process the information that they could in any way have been wrong. To accept this would be horrifying to them. So horrifying, in fact, that they must force everyone else to conform to their beliefs and push everyone out of their lives who would verbalize their inhumane act.

Everyone in their family and extended family will be forced to agree with these radical beliefs or be shunned. Every workplace and every co-worker of a trans radical must participate in a month of rainbow flag worship or face the wrath of the trans cult. If the co-worker doesn't have the authority to fire those who disagree, they will summon hordes of other trans radicals to pressure the employer to terminate the free thinker.

Anyone who does not conform to the trans agenda is effectively calling the radical an evil person. This must not be allowed or their mind will have to deal with conflicting information that they have done something terribly inhumane.

The same is true with abortion radicals.

An infinitesimally small percentage of women who have ended the life of their unborn child have been able to come to terms with destroying an innocent little life. To admit this to themselves and to ask God's forgiveness takes the strength that most cannot muster.

Almost all women who have had abortions become venomously radical and demand that abortion is absolutely unrestricted, very common, and easy to access in every corner of America. To give in, just a little, and allow any restriction would be an admission that they did something wrong. The next steps in that logic would lead them to conclude that they did something atrocious and unthinkable to their little baby.

Some of the most fervent pro-life activists are those who were able to accept they did something terrible, ask for God's forgiveness, and turn their life into a testimony to save the unborn.

Future activists who will stand up and oppose the trans radicals will be those few parents who were able to accept God's forgiveness for mutilating their children. Those parents will lead the movement to save future generations of innocent children from becoming cogs in the machine that provides untold millions of dollars to the medical cartels pushing trans surgeries on kids.

Sex traffickers are the third in this list of those who destroy the lives of children.

Sex trafficking is currently the biggest slave trade in human history. Slavery has existed since the beginning of time, but in the present day, the lives of children and young women are being destroyed at a record pace. The depraved people who are profiting from this and are involved in this day-to-day trade cannot ever admit to themselves that they have destroyed the lives of millions of innocents.

They cannot admit they have committed horrendous, unspeakable, crimes against humanity like the abortionist and the trans-surgery butchers. They must continue in the sex slave trade just as the abortionist must continue to push abortion and trans radicals must continue to push the mutilation of children.

There is a way out for all of those who have committed the most horrible crimes against the most innocent. God has the power to unburden the heart and forgive.

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but The One who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. —Proverbs 28:13

All you have to do is ask Him.

Until God is brought back into His proper place in America, and redemption is recognized as the preeminent uniting force that it is, child sacrifice, slavery, and mutilation will continue to spread like a plague of biblical proportions

2.8.8 Biden's Border Policies Are Responsible for the Deaths in Uvalde (2023-08-07 12:48)

The deaths of children and teachers in the Uvalde school shooting are directly linked to the Biden Border Invasion.

There has been little mention in corporate media that the school district in the small town of 1394

Uvalde, Texas, has been [1]locked down at least 48 times this year due to law enforcement pursuits of illegal aliens and human smugglers.

Where is the FBI? How many lockdowns does a school district have to go through until the federal government realizes there is something majorly wrong here?

The politicized FBI spends untold resources fishing into the lives of anyone with the last name Trump and anyone who went to DC on January 6th, but a school that has been locked down dozens of times over the course of a few months is of no concern.

The FBI is now investigating the police response to the shooting in Uvalde. Where were they when the school was under threat dozens of times in recent months?

The Justice Department recently paid out \$127.5 million to Parkland families because they ignored the threat until after children died in that 2018 school shooting.

The corporate media glossed over that story just as they have barely mentioned the fact that the Uvalde school district lives in a state of persistent lockdown from border threats.

Neither of those stories fit the leftist narrative that Second Amendment supporters and their guns are to blame for shootings so the corporate media has little need to report them.

In fact, the FBI has repeatedly ignored threats to American children and the corporate media is ignoring this corruption because the DOJ targets the political enemies of the leftist media.

Years from now the Justice Department will release their findings on the events surrounding the Uvalde shooting and government payouts will likely be made just as they were at Parkland. No one will be fired, just as they weren't in the admission of wrongdoing at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, and U.S. taxpayers will foot the bill.

What we know now about the events leading up to the Uvalde shooting is that students, teachers, and staff had become desensitized and clearly shrugged off the lockdown as another border threat not related to the school.

Teachers

and staff at Robb Elementary had been trained and had a detailed plan to protect from threats like a school shooter, but the school was locked down so frequently that lockdowns had become a sort of joke.

Where

the hell was the FBI? Where was the U.S. Department of Education? Where were the demands that school children be kept safe? Where were the demands from our “public servants” in DC that the border must be secured to protect American children?

If the private schools around DC or in the Hamptons were locked down 48 times in just a few months, you know that something would have been done.

Instead, this majority Hispanic school district full of legal immigrants and American citizens was ignored because they are lower-class citizens in the minds of the leftist elite.

Paige Skinner at [2]BuzzFeed interviewed a Uvalde student who said the school is locked down approximately twice a week because the border patrol is chasing a criminal illegal alien near the school. Another student, Felicity Fry, told BuzzFeed, “No one realizes the severity of the situation. Like, we’re having another lockdown, this is just so normal.”

Uvalde student Peyton Phillipts told BuzzFeed, “you just become used to [lockdowns].” Her sister Victoria added, “We’re numb to it pretty much.”

Why not prop a door open at the school?

Why bother to lock classroom doors for the 50th time this year when yet another lockdown is announced? It’s just another illegal alien running from the border patrol, right? Just another human smuggler with a family of illegals in his trunk running from the police, right?

It’s

the fabled Boy Who Cried Wolf. No one believed the school was actually under threat. Surely this was not the time when there was an actual shooter in the school, right?

Joe Biden and his handlers threw open our borders and children died because Uvalde is being overrun and the citizens of that town became desensitized to deadly threats. The FBI is complicit in the deaths of these children because the only “punishment” they receive is an order to payout millions of taxpayer dollars to those whose children they allowed to die.

Worse, this invasion and subsequent shooting leaves a perfect blueprint for the next copycat shooter.

If
we really want to stop shootings, our borders must be secure, our Justice Department must be cleaned out, and the evil left must be stopped.

1. <https://www.breitbart.com/border/2022/05/26/uvalde-schools-locked-down-at-least-48-times-this-academic-year/>
 2. <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/paigeskinner/uvalde-school-shooting-lockdowns>
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2.8.9 Inside the Mind of Vladimir Putin (2023-08-07 12:50)

What’s going on in the mind of Vladimir Putin? Why did he choose this moment to invade?

The conditions are perfect right now for Putin and tyrants around the world to expand their power and territory.

Who among the Western leaders has the moral authority to demand that tyrants like Vladimir Putin resist their dictatorial urges?

For
the past two plus years of the pandemic, Putin observed Western leaders repeatedly lying to their people. When they weren’t outright lying, they were hiding the data.

As they pushed mask and jab
mandates, Western politicians hid data on their efficacy or lack thereof. There is literally not one pro-mask politician who has not been

busted maskless at a gathering. They have revealed themselves as liars and hypocrites.

When movements emerged demanding God-given freedoms be restored, Western leaders sent the jackboots to quash the protests.

Tell

Vladimir Putin he is a thug and he will point to horses trampling protesters in Ottawa and old men and women being tear gassed and dragged away to jail, or he can point to the January 6th political prisoners still sitting in jail to this day being treated as terrorists as they are denied a speedy trial and due process, or he can point to the French citizens dragged out of restaurants refusing to show their tax papers.

Putin now believes that Western leaders aren't that much different from him.

Joe

Biden is the most corrupt American president to ever cheat his way to the Oval Office. The extent of his corruption fills volumes and more is uncovered every day thanks to Hunter's laptop from hell.

Canadian

PM Justin Trudeau showed his true dictatorial colors when he treated protesters as terrorists, froze their bank accounts, and dragged them off to jail. In the eyes of Putin, Trudeau is envious of his ability to see the power he wants and to take it.

Western leaders have gotten a taste of dictatorial power and are doing all they can to hold onto the power they grabbed during the pandemic.

Putin sees them as kindred spirits. In

Putin's eyes, they are fellow dictators pretending to be "democratic" who wish they had the guts of Putin to seize more power and territory.

Western

leaders have each completed their obligatory condemnation of Putin in the same way they read their prepared propaganda lines in front of the camera for the past two years. Few believe what comes out of the mouths of Western leaders after they spewed COVID lies in order to grasp onto more power. Putin also knows their words are empty. Putin knows these politicians have to put on a show in front of the TV cameras. He doesn't hold it against them.

The rest of the world is also

drunk on Russian oil right now. Putin has recently had an influx of cash that is fueling his military thanks to Joe Biden and other "green" politicians who have throttled back energy production and pushed the climate change hoax to score political points.

Every pipeline that is shut down by an environmentalist Western leader, every drilling permit that's denied, every oil rig shut down, gives Putin a little more advantage. Every dollar that oil rises is billions more in the pocket of Putin.

Putin also recognizes that Biden needs an international crisis to distract from all the Biden-created crises. Biden needs someone else to blame for high gas prices. Why would Biden stop Putin from giving him a distraction and a scapegoat for high gas prices? Watch for Jen Psaki to start blaming Russia for high gas prices. Democrats will start placing Putin's head over the stickers on gas pumps with Biden's face that say "I did that."

The main motivation that pushed Putin to invade Ukraine at this moment in time is because America is currently at its weakest. The U.S. won't be this weak for long, though. The American people are about to remove a lot of incompetent and corrupt leaders in the next two election cycles, but it can't happen fast enough.

Unfortunately, all of the above also applies to Xi Jinping. The CCP will be the next to flex their tyrannical muscles.

It is both a historical fact and consequence that weak, corrupt US leadership creates the vacuum for tyrants to exploit. Both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Putin's taking of Crimea and the first parts of Ukraine all saw tyrants take territory when Democrats occupied the Oval Office. It's just a coincidence, right?

The moment when America is weakest is when tyrants are at their boldest. The world needs a strong United States.

2.8.10 The Climate Experts Have Never Been Right (2023-08-07 12:52)

Joe Biden and other world leaders gathered in Scotland this week to lecture us peasants that something must be done NOW or climate change will be irreversible.

Joe Biden can barely put words together to form a sentence, but he read a cue card prepared by his handlers that said, "we don't have any more time."

At the COP26 summit, Biden said, "None of us can escape the worst that's yet to come if we fail to seize this moment."

UK PM Boris Johnson spouted an even more apocalyptic-sounding message, "It's one minute to midnight on that doomsday clock, and we need to act now."

We are led to believe that if we would just allow the globalists to print and borrow a few trillion more, they could really save the planet in just the nick of time.

The doomsday climate cult has been preaching about the coming apocalypse since before I was born.

Back in 1967, the LA Times warned it was already too late. Famine would devastate the world population. At that time, the experts claimed there was nothing that could be done to reverse it.

Joe Biden might even remember that story. He was about to start his political career in the U.S. Senate soon after that. Politicians soon realized they could claim to be the saviors of the world and use the climate topic to gain political power.

In 1989, an Associated Press article quoted UN climate experts saying that entire nations would be wiped off the face of the earth by the year 2000.

We are still waiting for those "experts" to issue a correction.

It wasn't always about oceans rising and global warming. In 1970, the Boston Globe quoted experts who said an ice age would hit the earth by the year 2000.

And my father's favorite climate scientist, Paul Erlich (who has literally never been right about anything he has ever predicted) said in 1970 that the oceans would be dead by 1980 and the US would be rationing water by 1974 and rationing food by 1980. Although, all we were rationing at that time was gasoline thanks to Jimmy Carter.

The climate crazies warn that climate change isn't about warming or cooling anymore, it's about more extreme weather conditions like bigger and more deadly storms. Although, in recent years, as if to mock the climate "experts" the U.S. went through one of the most dormant eras of hurricane activity in recorded American history.

For more than a decade (and for the entire Obama-Biden administration), no major hurricanes hit the United States. The NOAA classifies major hurricanes as category 3 or higher.

Obama and Biden did use Hurricane Sandy in 2012 to push the climate-change lie, but that was only a category 1 storm. So, when Ida hit the United States earlier this year, Biden was visibly excited to have a Cat 4 hurricane to exploit for political power.

For those who still worry that the climate is in crisis and politicians can fix it, look no further than the traffic jam of 400 private jets flying world leaders and their entourages into

Glasgow to the UN Climate Summit, or check out Biden's 85-car motorcade. They don't believe what they are preaching. The climate craziness is all a play to grasp more power and tax us into submission.

If you don't believe me, wait another 50 years and play the words of Joe Biden and Boris Johnson saying the world is on the brink. They will be proven just as wrong as all the rest of the climate "experts" throughout the ages who have literally never been right. Not once. Ever.

2.8.11 Your Government Is an Official Abuser (2023-08-07 12:54)

Right now, we are the victim, and the government is the abuser.

Today I came across a [1]wheel chart that one might use in helping a client or patient determine whether or not they are the victim of abuse in a relationship. I saw it in a whole new light.

Very rarely in my psychological/political career have I seen something so striking as the warning signs of abuse, and the way our government is treating us today. It reads like a modern day Democrat playbook.

The following are the signs of abuse that ordinarily a counselor or therapist might share with their client to try to determine if the person is actually being abused.

1. An abuser stops you from seeing family and friends – but just for 15 days to stop the spread.
2. They won't let you go out without permission – like a lockdown.
3. The third thing abusers do is tell you what to wear – masks anyone?
4. Monitor your phone calls and emails – like big tech.
5. They control the finances or they won't let you work – government checks, high unemployment, and closing "non-essential" businesses.
6. They control what you read, watch and say – like the leftist media.
7. They monitor everything you do – I'm sure the NSA doesn't have data collected on ALL of us, right?
8. The abuser traditionally punishes you for breaking the rules but the

abuser keeps changing the rules – no masks, masks, 2 masks, vax, no masks, vax isn't as effective as we thought, wear masks again.

9. Abusers tell you this is all being done for your own good and that they know better than you – like nanny state government.

10. They don't allow you to question them – Have you been cancelled yet?

11.

The abuser tells you you're crazy and that nobody agrees with you – even though you could fill stadiums full of people who agree with you and the abuser can't fill a large van.

12. They call you names

(like Nazi and insurrectionist) and shame you for being stupid and selfish – so selfish that you want to make your own medical decisions.

13.

Your abuser will gaslight you, challenge your memory of events that you know you saw with your own eyes – “January 6th was a deadly insurrection...” How many died that day? Who did the killing? How can it be an insurrection if no one has been charged with insurrection?

14.

The abuser dismisses your opinions and is always the one to play the victim – and we know the left has perfected playing the victim.

15.

Finally, if things go wrong the abuser blames you (and Trump) – all those deaths must be because of the evil unmasked and unvaxxed.

It's shocking, isn't it?

I

don't practice, and I haven't sat across the sofa from a client in a long while. If you were a client and I were your therapist I would advise you to stop it. Stop right now. Tell the government NO!

I

would tell you you're not crazy. Your abuser is insane for doing this to you. But we, as an electorate, have enabled our abuser and given him a foothold to keep abusing.

I would also tell you that you are jeopardizing your children's futures if you don't draw the line now.

And

finally, I would tell you the hardest thing I have ever had to tell a

therapy client... if you don't stop him now, since he checks every box in the abuse cycle... you will die.

The precipice is crossed, and the conclusion is drawn. There is no love here. Your government has abused you to the point of trying to kill you. What more does he have to do before you walk?

How do you "walk out" on your government?

You

fight on every front. Don't physically attack unless you are cornered in direct threat with all other means of fighting exhausted, or you will be the one in trouble. But fight your abuser, the government, in every other way, on every other platform and plane, with every weapon in your proverbial arsenal.

Your children are watching this cycle of abuse. End it now. And tell everyone you know that they, too, must end the cycle of abuse now.

1. https://www.dropbox.com/s/rdqgvqzib90pwa5/IMG_1214.jpeg?dl=0

2.8.12 World War III is already here (2023-08-07 13:40)

This past week will be remembered by most historians – if anyone is lucky enough to live through this Age of Self-Destruction – as the point of no return for the Russo-Ukrainian war.

The world was treated (more like tormented) by dueling presidential speeches, one from the sclerotic US President Joe Biden, who journeyed to Kiev to reassert his undying support for Ukraine, the other by the surly Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Neither speech was particularly reassuring. Biden [1]promised his Ukrainian wards an additional US \$500 million in US taxpayer support for the besieged Ukrainians.

Shortly after his speech, the Pentagon [2]hinted that it might stop slow-walking its promised (but as yet to be delivered)

M1A2 Abrams main battle tank to the waiting arms of the desperate Ukrainian defenders and simply hand over the MBTs that are already in America's warehouses (something that the Pentagon had resisted doing when the Biden administration made its initial announcement that it would, in fact, be sending the vaunted MBTs).

Understanding Putin's **speech**

The other speech came from Putin, who spoke for a whopping two hours on Tuesday evening, in which he reiterated his commitment to total victory over Ukraine and how the United States was ruled by "satanists" and "pedophiles."

Unsurprisingly, most Western media outlets simply refused to cover the speech. Those few that did were openly derisive. The speech certainly was Castro-esque in its loquaciousness and was tinged with quasi-religious accusations against the West that would make most Iranian mullahs blush, but there was substance in Putin's words.

He not only signaled that his commitment to the conflict was as strong as ever, but that he was escalating it, in response to what he viewed as an American escalation.

In fact, Putin issued his first significant threat toward the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): He told his American rivals that they were to remove their offensive long-range weapons systems in Ukraine, otherwise Russian forces would begin directly targeting those systems.

1. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/us-president-biden-visits-war-time-kyiv-ahead-invasion-anniversary-2023-02-20/>

2. https://breakingdefense.com/2023/02/evolving-plans-ukraines-m1-abrams-tanks-could-come-from-us-stockpiles-official-says/?utm_campaign=BD%20Daily&utm_medium=email

2.8.13 Anti-gravity (2023-08-10 11:33)

Anti-gravity (also known as **non-gravitational field**) is a hypothetical phenomenon of creating a place or object that is free from the force of [1]gravity. It does not refer to the lack of weight under gravity experienced in [2]free fall or [3]orbit, or to balancing the force of gravity with some other force, such as electromagnetism or aerodynamic lift. Anti-gravity is a recurring concept in science fiction. Examples are the gravity blocking substance "Cavorite" in [4]H. G. Wells's [5]*The First Men in the Moon* and the [6]Spindizzy machines in [7]James Blish's [8]*Cities in Flight*.

"Anti-gravity" is often used to refer to devices that look as if they reverse gravity even though they operate through other means, such as [9]lifters, which fly in the air by moving air with [10]electromagnetic fields.^{[11][1][12][2]}

Historical attempts at understanding gravity

Main article: [13]History of gravitational theory

The possibility of creating anti-gravity depends upon a complete understanding and description of gravity and its interactions with other physical theories, such as [14]general relativity and [15]quantum mechanics; as of 2023 physicists have yet to discover a quantum theory of gravity.

During the summer of 1666, [16]Isaac Newton observed an apple falling from the tree in his garden, thus realizing the [17]principle of universal gravitation.^{[18][3]} [19]Albert Einstein in 1915 considered the physical interaction between matter and space, where gravity occurs as a consequence of matter causing a geometric deformation of space which is otherwise flat.^{[20][4][21][5][22][6]} Einstein, both independently and with [23]Walther Mayer, attempted to unify his [24]theory of gravity with [25]electromagnetism using the work of [26]Theodor Kaluza^{[27][7]} and [28]James Clerk Maxwell to link gravity and [29]quantum field theory.^{[30][8]}

Theoretical quantum physicists have postulated the existence of a quantum gravity particle, the [31]graviton. Various theoretical explanations of [32]quantum gravity have been created,

including [33]superstring theory, [34]loop quantum gravity, [35]E8 theory and [36]asymptotic safety theory amongst many others.

Hypothetical solutions

In [37]Newton's law of universal gravitation, gravity was an external force transmitted by unknown means. In the 20th century, Newton's model was replaced by [38]general relativity where gravity is not a force but the result of the geometry of spacetime. Under general relativity, anti-gravity is impossible except under contrived circumstances.[39][9][40][10][41][11]

Gravity shields



[42] A monument at [43]Babson College dedicated to [44]Roger Babson for research into anti-gravity and partial gravity insulators

Main article: [45]Gravitational shielding

In 1948 businessman [46]Roger Babson (founder of [47]Babson College) formed the [48]Gravity Research Foundation to study ways to reduce the effects of gravity.[49][12] Their efforts were initially somewhat "[50]crankish", but they held occasional conferences that drew such people as [51]Clarence Birdseye, known for his frozen-food products, and helicopter pioneer [52]Igor Sikorsky.[53] *citation needed*]

Over time the Foundation turned its attention away from trying to control gravity, to simply better understanding it. The Foundation

nearly disappeared after Babson's death in 1967. However, it continues to run an essay award, offering prizes of up to \$4,000. As of 2017, it is still administered out of [54]Wellesley, Massachusetts, by George Rideout Jr., son of the foundation's original director.^{[55][13]} Winners include California astrophysicist [56]George F. Smoot (1993), who later won the 2006 [57]Nobel Prize in physics, and [58]Gerard 't Hooft (2015) who previously won the 1999 Nobel Prize in physics.^{[59][14]}

General relativity research in the 1950s

Main article: [60]United States gravity control propulsion research

General relativity was introduced in the 1910s, but development of the theory was greatly slowed by a lack of suitable mathematical tools.^[61] *clarification needed*] It appeared that anti-gravity was outlawed under general relativity.

It is claimed the [62]US Air Force also ran a study effort throughout the 1950s and into the 1960s.^{[63][15]} Former Lieutenant Colonel [64]Ansel Talbert wrote two series of newspaper articles claiming that most of the major aviation firms had started gravity control propulsion research in the 1950s. However, there is little outside confirmation of these stories, and since they take place in the midst of the [65]policy by press release era, it is not clear how much weight these stories should be given.

It is known that there were serious efforts underway at the [66]Glenn L. Martin Company, who formed the Research Institute for Advanced Study.^{[67][16][68][17]} Major newspapers announced the contract that had been made between theoretical physicist [69]Burkhard Heim and the Glenn L. Martin Company. Another effort in the private sector to master understanding of gravitation was the creation of the Institute for Field Physics, [70]University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1956, by Gravity Research Foundation trustee [71]Agnew H. Bahnson.

Military support for anti-gravity projects was terminated by the [72]Mansfield Amendment of 1973, which restricted [73]Department of Defense spending to only the areas of scientific research with explicit military applications. The Mansfield Amendment was passed specifically to end long-running projects that had little to show for their efforts.

Under general relativity, gravity is the result of following spatial geometry (change in the normal shape of space) caused by local mass-energy. This theory holds that it is the altered shape of space, deformed by massive objects, that causes gravity, which is actually a property of deformed space rather than being a true force. Although the equations cannot normally produce a "negative geometry", it is possible

to do so by using "[74]negative mass". The same equations do not, of themselves, rule out the existence of negative mass.

Both general relativity and Newtonian gravity appear to predict that negative mass would produce a repulsive gravitational field. In particular, Sir [75]Hermann Bondi proposed in 1957 that negative gravitational mass, combined with negative inertial mass, would comply with the [76]strong equivalence principle of general relativity theory and the Newtonian laws of conservation of linear momentum and energy. Bondi's proof yielded singularity-free solutions for the relativity equations.^{[77][18]} In July 1988, [78]Robert L. Forward presented a paper at the AIAA/ASME/SAE/ASEE 24th Joint Propulsion Conference that proposed a Bondi negative gravitational mass propulsion system.^{[79][19]}

Bondi pointed out that a negative mass will fall toward (and not away from) "normal" matter, since although the gravitational force is repulsive, the negative mass (according to Newton's law, $F=ma$) responds by accelerating in the opposite of the direction of the force. Normal mass, on the other hand, will fall away from the negative matter. He noted that two identical masses, one positive and one negative, placed near each other will therefore self-accelerate in the direction of the line between them, with the negative mass chasing after the positive mass.^{[80][18]} Notice that because the negative mass acquires negative [81]kinetic energy, the total energy of the accelerating masses remains at zero. Forward pointed out that the self-acceleration effect is due to the negative inertial mass, and could be seen induced without the gravitational forces between the particles.^{[82][19]}

The [83]Standard Model

of particle physics, which describes all currently known forms of matter, does not include negative mass. Although cosmological [84]dark matter may consist of particles outside the Standard Model whose nature is unknown, their mass is ostensibly known – since they were postulated from their gravitational effects on surrounding objects, which implies their mass is positive. The proposed cosmological [85]dark energy, on the other hand, is more complicated, since according to general relativity the effects of both its energy density and its negative pressure contribute to its gravitational effect.

Unique force

Under general relativity any form of energy couples with spacetime to create the geometries that cause gravity. A longstanding question was whether

or not these same equations applied to [86]antimatter. The issue was considered solved in 1960 with the development of [87]CPT symmetry, which demonstrated that antimatter follows the same laws of physics as "normal" matter, and therefore has positive energy content and also causes (and reacts to) gravity like normal matter (see [88]gravitational interaction of antimatter).

For much of the last quarter of the 20th century, the physics community was involved in attempts to produce a [89]unified field theory, a single physical theory that explains the four fundamental forces: gravity, electromagnetism, and the strong and weak nuclear forces. Scientists have made progress in [90]unifying the three quantum forces, but gravity has remained "the problem" in every attempt. This has not stopped any number of such attempts from being made, however.

Generally these attempts tried to "quantize gravity" by positing a particle, the [91]graviton, that carried gravity in the same way that [92]photons (light) carry electromagnetism. Simple attempts along this direction all failed, however, leading to more complex examples that attempted to account for these problems. Two of these, [93]supersymmetry and the relativity related [94]supergravity, both required the existence of an extremely weak "fifth force" carried by a [95]graviphoton, which coupled together several "loose ends" in quantum field theory, in an organized manner. As a side effect, both theories also all but required that antimatter be affected by this fifth force in a way similar to anti-gravity, dictating repulsion away from mass. Several experiments were carried out in the 1990s to measure this effect, but none yielded positive results.^{[96][20]}

In 2013 [97]CERN

looked for an antigravity effect in an experiment designed to study the energy levels within antihydrogen. The antigravity measurement was just an "interesting sideshow" and was inconclusive.^{[98][21]}

Negative energy and Anti-gravity

[99]Newton's law of universal gravitation takes the form:

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <mi>F</mi> <mo>=</mo> <mi>G</mi> <mrow> <mfrac> <mrow> <msub> <mi>m</mi> <mrow> <mn>1</mn> </mrow> </msub> <msub> <mi>m</mi> <mrow> <mn>2</mn> </mrow> </msub> </mrow> <msup> <mi>r</mi> <mrow> <mn>2</mn> </mrow> </msup> </mfrac> </mrow> </mstyle> </mrow> </semantics> :MATH]

It can be rewritten as

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <mi>F</mi>
<mo>=</mo> <msup> <mi>G</mi> <mo>'</mo> </msup> <mrow> <mfrac> <mrow>
<msub> <mi>E</mi> <mrow> <mn>1</mn> </mrow> </msub> <msub> <mi>E</mi>
<mrow> <mn>2</mn> </mrow> </msub> </mrow> <msup> <mi>r</mi> <mrow>
<mn>2</mn> </mrow> </msup> </mfrac> </mrow> </mstyle> </mrow> </semantics>
:MATH]

✖

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <msup>
<mi>G</mi> <mo>'</mo> </msup> <mo>=</mo> <mrow> <mfrac> <mi>G</mi>
<msup> <mi>c</mi> <mrow> <mn>4</mn> </mrow> </msup> </mfrac> </mrow>
</mstyle> </mrow> </semantics> :MATH]

✖

by using the [100]energy

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <mi>E</mi>
</mstyle> </mrow> </semantics> :MATH]

✖

to take the place of [101]mass

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <mi>m</mi>
</mstyle> </mrow> </semantics> :MATH]

✖

[102][22]

Namely, the sign of gravity depends on the product of energies. It is attractive between two positive energies or negative energies.

Naturally, the gravitational force between a [103]negative energy and the object whose energy is positive should be repulsive. For example, the total energy of a free [104]electron is

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <mi>E</mi>
<mo>=</mo> <mi>m</mi> <msup> <mi>c</mi> <mrow> <mn>2</mn> </mrow>
</msup> </mstyle> </mrow> </semantics> :MATH]

✖

. In a [105]Faraday cage where the [106]electrostatic potential

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <mi> ϕ </mi>
</mstyle> </mrow> </semantics> :MATH]

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is nonzero, the total energy is

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <mi>E</mi>
<mo>=</mo> <mi>m</mi> <msup> <mi>c</mi> <mrow> <mn>2</mn> </mrow>
</msup> <mo>-</mo> <mi>e</mi> <mi>ϕ</mi> </mstyle> </mrow> </semantics>
:MATH]

⌘

It can be less than zero if

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <mi>ϕ</mi>
</mstyle> </mrow> </semantics> :MATH]

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is larger than

[MATH: <semantics> <mrow> <mstyle displaystyle="true" scriptlevel="0"> <mrow>
<mfrac> <mrow> <mi>m</mi> <msup> <mi>c</mi> <mrow> <mn>2</mn> </mrow>
</msup> </mrow> <mi>e</mi> </mfrac> </mrow> <mo>=</mo> <mn>0.51</mn>
<mi>M</mi> <mi>V</mi> </mstyle> </mrow> </semantics> :MATH]

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. In this case, the electron whose total energy is negative should be repelled by the earth with a positive energy.

Breakthrough Propulsion Physics Program

During the close of the twentieth century [107]NASA provided funding for the [108]Breakthrough Propulsion Physics Program

(BPP) from 1996 through 2002. This program studied a number of "far

out" designs for space propulsion that were not receiving funding

through normal university or commercial channels. Anti-gravity-like

concepts were investigated under the name "diametric drive". The work of

the BPP program continues in the independent, non-NASA affiliated [109]Tau Zero Foundation.[110][23]

Empirical claims and commercial efforts

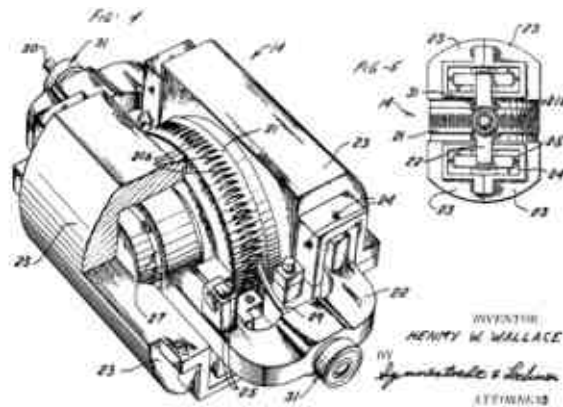
There

have been a number of attempts to build anti-gravity devices, and a

small number of reports of anti-gravity-like effects in the scientific literature. None of the examples that follow are accepted as reproducible examples of anti-gravity.

Gyroscopic devices

[111]



A "kinemassic field" generator from [112]U.S. Patent 3,626,605 : Method and apparatus for generating a secondary gravitational force field

[113]Gyroscopes

produce a force when twisted that operates "out of plane" and can appear to lift themselves against gravity. Although this force is well understood to be illusory, even under Newtonian models, it has nevertheless generated numerous claims of anti-gravity devices and any number of patented devices. None of these devices have ever been demonstrated to work under controlled conditions, and have often become the subject of [114]conspiracy theories as a result.

Another "rotating device" example is shown in a series of patents granted to Henry Wallace between 1968 and 1974. His devices consist of rapidly spinning disks of [115]brass, a material made up largely of elements with a total half-integer nuclear spin. He claimed that by rapidly rotating a disk of such material, the [116]nuclear spin became aligned, and as a result created a "gravito-magnetic" field in a fashion similar to the magnetic field created by the [117]Barnett effect.^{[118][24][119][25][120][26]} No independent testing or public demonstration of these devices is known.

In 1989, it was reported that a weight decreases along the axis of a right spinning gyroscope.^{[121][27]} A test of this claim a year later yielded null results.^{[122][28]} A recommendation was made to conduct further tests at a 1999 AIP conference.^{[123][29]}

Thomas Townsend Brown's gravitator

Further information: [124]Biefeld-Brown effect, [125]Electrogravitics, and [126]United States gravity control propulsion research § Brown's gravitator

In 1921, while still in [127]high school, [128]Thomas Townsend Brown found that a high-voltage [129]Coolidge tube seemed to change mass depending on its orientation on a balance scale. Through the 1920s Brown developed this into devices that combined high voltages with materials with high [130]dielectric constants (essentially large [131]capacitors); he called such a device a "gravitator". Brown made the claim to observers and in the media that his experiments were showing anti-gravity effects. Brown would continue his work and produced a series of high-voltage devices in the following years in attempts to sell his ideas to aircraft companies and the military. He coined the names [132]Biefeld-Brown effect and [133]electrogravitics in conjunction with his devices. Brown tested his asymmetrical capacitor devices in a vacuum, supposedly showing it was not a more down-to-earth [134]electrohydrodynamic effect generated by high voltage ion flow in air.

Electrogravitics is a popular topic in [135]ufology, anti-gravity, [136]free energy, with government conspiracy theorists and related websites, in books and publications with claims that the technology became highly classified in the early 1960s and that it is used to power UFOs and the [137]B-2 bomber.^{[138][30]} There is also research and videos on the internet purported to show lifter-style capacitor devices working in a vacuum, therefore not receiving propulsion from ion drift or [139]ion wind being generated in air.^{[140][30][141][31]}

Follow-up studies on Brown's work and other claims have been conducted by R. L. Talley in a 1990 US Air Force study, NASA scientist Jonathan Campbell in a 2003 experiment,^{[142][30]} and [143]Martin Tajmar in a 2004 paper.^{[144][32]} They have found that no thrust could be observed in a vacuum and that Brown's and other [145]ion lifter devices produce thrust along their axis regardless of the direction of gravity consistent with electrohydrodynamic effects.

Gravitoelectric coupling

In 1992, the Russian researcher [146]Eugene Podkletnov claimed to have discovered, whilst experimenting with [147]superconductors, that a fast rotating superconductor reduces the gravitational effect.^{[148][33]} Many studies have attempted to reproduce Podkletnov's experiment, always to negative results.^{[149][34][150][35][151][36] [152][37]}

[153]Ning Li and [154]Douglas Torr, of the [155]University of Alabama in Huntsville proposed how a time dependent magnetic field could cause the spins of the lattice ions in a superconductor to generate detectable [156]gravitomagnetic and gravito-electric fields in a series of papers published between 1991 and 1993.^{[157][38][158][39][159][40]} In 1999, Li and her team appeared in [160]*Popular Mechanics*, claiming to have constructed a working [161]prototype to generate what she described as "AC Gravity." No further evidence of this prototype has been offered.^{[162][41][163][42]}

Douglas Torr and [164]Timir Datta were involved in the development of a "gravity generator" at the [165]University of South Carolina.^{[166][43]} According to a leaked document from the Office of Technology Transfer at the University of South Carolina and confirmed to [167]*Wired* reporter Charles Platt in 1998, the device would create a "force beam" in any desired direction and that the university planned to patent and license this device. No further information about this university research project or the "Gravity Generator" device was ever made public.^{[168][44]}

Göde Award

The Institute for Gravity Research of the Göde Scientific Foundation has tried to reproduce many of the different experiments which claim any "anti-gravity" effects. All attempts by this group to observe an anti-gravity effect by reproducing past experiments have been unsuccessful thus far. The foundation has offered a reward of one million euros for a reproducible anti-gravity experiment.^{[169][45]}

In fiction

The existence of anti-gravity is a common theme in [170]fantasy and [171]science fiction.

Apergy

Apergy is a fictitious form of anti-gravitational energy first described by [172]Percy Greg in his 1880 [173]sword and planet novel [174]*Across the Zodiac*.^{[175][46]}

[176]John Jacob Astor IV used it in his 1894 science fiction novel [177]*A Journey in Other Worlds*.^{[178][47]} [179]Jack London describes it as "the hypothetical existence of a force, the converse of gravitation, which Astor has named 'apergy,'" in his short story entitled "A Thousand Deaths," first published in [180]*The Black Cat* in 1899.^{[181][48]}

Apergy can also be found in an 1896 article, "Some Truths About Keely,"^{[182][49]} where [183]Clara Jessup Bloomfield-Moore used it to describe the [184]latent force [185]John Keely harnessed, by employing frequency to release the latent force found within all atomic [186]matter.^{[187][50]}

In an ostensibly non-fictitious article published in 1897 in [188]*The San Francisco Call* titled "The Secret of Aerial Flight Revealed,"^{[189][51]} science correspondent [190]Frank M. Close, D. Sc., visits an unnamed Hindu man masquerading as a [191]viticulturist somewhere on the [192]Pacific coast who claims to have invented a flying boat that uses an "apergent"—a rare metal called "radlum"—to produce controlled apergic force, allowing the vessel to ascend and descend. The inventor describes apergy as "a force obtained by blending positive and negative electricity with ultheic, the third element or state of electric energy" and calls apergy a "second phase of gravity," hinting at a third phase as well.

[193]S. P. Meek's short story "Cold Light," which appeared in March 1930 in *Astounding Stories of Super-Science*,^{[194][52]} mentions apergy as the opposite force of gravity.

In [195]Chris Roberson's short story "Annus Mirabilis" from the 2006 second volume of [196]*Tales of the Shadowmen*, [197]Doctor Omega and [198]Albert Einstein investigate apergy. Apergy is also mentioned in the [199]Warren Ellis comic [200]*Aetheric Mechanics*, as being generated by [201]Cavorite technology from [202]*The First Men in the Moon*.

Other terms

[203]H. G. Wells's 1901 novel [204]*The First Men in the Moon* has space travel based on the gravity-blocking properties of "[205]Cavorite."

[206]Philip Francis Nowlan's 1928 story [207]*Armageddon 2419 A.D.* describes "inertron," a substance that falls up. The story was the basis for the [208]Buck Rogers [209]comic strip and adaptations.

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gravity>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_fall
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orbit>
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H._G._Wells

5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_First_Men_in_the_Moon
6. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spindizzy_\(Cities_in_Flight\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spindizzy_(Cities_in_Flight))
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Blish
8. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cities_in_Flight
9. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ionocraft>
10. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetic_field
11. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-1
12. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-2
13. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_gravitational_theory
14. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_relativity
15. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_mechanics
16. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Newton
17. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newton%27s_law_of_universal_gravitation
18. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-york-3
19. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Einstein
20. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-4
21. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-5
22. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-6
23. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walther_Mayer
24. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_theory_of_relativity
25. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetism>
26. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Kaluza
27. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-7
28. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Clerk_Maxwell
29. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_field_theory
30. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-8
31. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graviton>
32. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_gravity
33. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_string_theory
34. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loop_quantum_gravity
35. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Exceptionally_Simple_Theory_of_Everything
36. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asymptotic_safety_in_quantum_gravity
37. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newton%27s_law_of_universal_gravitation
38. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_relativity
39. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-9
40. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-10
41. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-11
42. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:New_boston_babson_monument.JPG
43. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babson_College
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46. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Babson
47. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babson_College
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49. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-12
50. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crank_\(person\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crank_(person))
51. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarence_Birdseye
52. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igor_Sikorsky
53. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed
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58. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerard_%27t_Hooft
59. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-14
60. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_gravity_control_propulsion_research
61. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Please_clarify
62. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/US_Air_Force
63. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-15
64. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ansel_Talbert
65. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Policy_by_press_release
66. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glenn_L._Martin_Company
67. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-16
68. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-17
69. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkhard_Heim
70. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_North_Carolina_at_Chapel_Hill
71. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Agnew_H._Bahnsen&action=edit&redlink=1
72. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mansfield_Amendment
73. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Defense
74. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negative_mass
75. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Bondi
76. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strong_equivalence_principle
77. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-Bondi-18
78. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_L._Forward
79. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-Forward-19
80. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-Bondi-18
81. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinetic_energy
82. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-Forward-19
83. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Model
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86. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antimatter>
87. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CPT_symmetry
88. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gravitational_interaction_of_antimatter
89. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unified_field_theory
90. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_unification_theory
91. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graviton>
92. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photon>
93. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supersymmetry>
94. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supergravity>
95. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graviphoton>
96. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-SciAm79-20
97. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CERN>
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100. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy>
101. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass>
102. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-22
103. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negative_energy
104. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electron>

105. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faraday_cage
106. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrostatic_potential
107. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA>
108. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breakthrough_Propulsion_Physics_Program
109. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tau_Zero_Foundation
110. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-23
111. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:H_W_Wallace_force_field_figure_4.png
112. <https://patents.google.com/patent/US3626605>
113. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gyroscope>
114. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conspiracy_theories
115. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brass>
116. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_spin
117. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barnett_effect
118. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-24
119. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-25
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123. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-gravity#cite_note-29
124. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biefeld-Brown_effect
125. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrogravitics>
126. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_gravity_control_propulsion_research#Brown's_gravitator
127. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_school
128. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Townsend_Brown
129. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coolidge_tube
130. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dielectric>
131. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capacitors>
132. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biefeld%E2%80%93Brown_effect
133. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrogravitics>
134. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrohydrodynamic>
135. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ufology>
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2.8.14 Big problem - why half of tech workers are planning to quit their job due to toxic workplace culture (2023-08-14 19:09)

Since the start of 2022, more than [1]1,700 tech companies have laid off staff, leading to over 350,000 people losing their jobs. As well as the impact on the individuals being let go, this current trend is intensifying a climate of toxicity in technology companies.

That's according to [2]research from TalentLMS and Culture Amp, which found that 45 % of employees working in tech firms with a toxic culture said the layoffs have resulted in a worse atmosphere at work. Of the 1,000 tech workers surveyed, 45 % are planning to quit their job because of this toxicity.

According to Christina Gialleli, Director of People Operations at TalentLMS parent company Epignosis, as tech job losses increase, so does the pressure:

We're going through difficult times here. I don't think most companies have completed their layoffs. We're still in turmoil, and we get to see the outcome of this in this pressure.

When it comes to who is responsible for creating a toxic culture at their workplace, 55 % said leadership and managers, while 31 % said colleagues. The top three contributing factors are expecting employees to work longer hours or weekends without additional pay; a lack of transparency and communication from management and leadership; and a lack of consideration and courtesy.

The combination of pressure from leadership and senior management, companies not wanting to hinder productivity, and people not speaking up because they're afraid of the consequences are all leading to this worsening atmosphere at tech companies. Gialleli says:

If the employees are being pitted against each other, if the companies are promoting unhealthy competition, if toxicity is tolerated rather than sacrificing the high performer who's toxic, that's going to spread to the team. And a toxic team is going to be toxic to other teams and it will cascade down and escalate, and then your people end up leaving.

This latter point is borne out by the almost half of staff planning to quit their current job, a situation that could cause difficulties among tech companies being complacent about employee retention during a period of industry job losses.

Attitude problem

There's a danger companies are taking the view that with so many tech workers available, it doesn't matter how they treat staff because they can just be replaced if they leave. However, the tech sector is still in the midst of talent shortages, meaning companies need to take measures now to address the toxicity and retain their best people. Gialleli says:

The tech sector was struggling [with skills shortages] for so many years and now it's seeing talent becoming available again, but this is going to be short term. You have to have a zero tolerance policy. You need to make your leadership team accountable for addressing it.

Workplace training in areas like DEI, empathy and discrimination can help in fostering a positive and healthy work environment. Firms need to ensure employees understand how to behave and work within their teams, and how to address issues when they arise, whether it's regarding a colleague, their manager or manager's manager. Gialleli adds:

You need to create a transparent environment where people are not afraid to speak up, know what to expect, how to behave, how to address situations, and know that the company is going to do something about it.

This isn't the case presently. Half of employees don't do or say anything when they experience toxic behaviours at work – 29 % because they don't believe it will make a difference and 20 % because they're too nervous about the consequences. Meanwhile, 45 % of employees say that leadership at their organization lives in a bubble that company culture is healthy.

According to Gialleli, buy-in from the CEO is vital to deal with these issues, although HR has a role to play too:

The HR teams are facilitators, they can roll out surveys to figure out and pinpoint the issues, and then they can address and create in collaboration with managers and the leadership team the appropriate training that will help rectify the problems. But this is all top down.

Almost half of workers currently believe their companies will remain toxic in the future, which brings risks for their employers:

People are affected by working at a toxic environment. It affects their productivity, it affects their mental health, and ultimately people that are unhappy are going to leave. The bottom line is retention and productivity and being able to have performing teams. That's what you're going to have if you address it and you have everything to lose if you don't.

Good people are not going to stay in a toxic environment. Companies may be able to fill their hiring quota, but it costs to replace people, it costs to train them and to find good people. Maybe it's easier than it was a year ago, but you still need to lay the foundations and make sure your people are happy and productive."

My take

The findings of TalentLMS' research seem at odds with the increasing focus on diversity, equality and inclusion (DEI) at so many tech companies. According to the [3]2022 KPMG DEI Progress Survey, 71 % of firms reported having taken many DEI-related actions since 2020. Surely a core element of any DEI efforts would be creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all – the opposite of a toxic culture.

While the tech sector is clearly focused on surviving the current hard times – hence the huge raft of job losses and more pressured environment for staff – this short-termism will backfire when the economy picks up again. Those 55 % of tech staff working in a toxic culture but not planning to quit their job are much less likely to hang around once stability returns and vacancies rise.

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2. <http://www.talentlms.com/research/toxic-culture-tech-industry-survey>
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2.8.15 72% of Tech Workers May Quit Their Jobs. Fixing Organizational Cultures Can Help Them Stay Put. (2023-08-14 19:11)

We've known for a while now that there's a tech talent shortage. Over a decade ago, more than half of CEOs expressed concern over the dearth of talent for digital roles. By 2019, 79 % had concerns. The pandemic has severely exacerbated the issue and, to make matters worse, current tech workers are unhappy and fleeing their jobs. Seven in 10 tech workers say they're considering quitting their jobs within the next year.

Employee expectations are high, and the performance gap is significant –just 1 in 4 knowledge workers strongly agree that their company exemplifies the factors they have identified as being important, such as well-being, employee experience, and values. The pandemic and the rise of remote work have changed the way we view our lives and the world. This has led to what organizational psychologist Anthony Klotz coined “The Great Resignation.”

The Great Resignation

In the U.S., the Labor Department revealed that 4.4 million Americans left their jobs in September 2021 – the highest number on record. The phenomenon is often associated with the United States; however, rates of resignation are high globally. In the U.K., the number of open jobs surpassed 1 million for the first time ever in August.

Generally speaking, it’s not uncommon for employees to leave their jobs in search of new opportunities. However, the technology industry is currently experiencing an acute form of disengagement. Staff turnover among U.S. tech companies ranks at 13.2 %, which is the highest attrition index among all industries, with resignation rates increasing 4.5 % over the previous year.

Poor Culture Leads to Unhappy Employees

For some workers, the pandemic has triggered a monumental shift in priorities. Many are now seeing the shift as encouragement to pursue a dream job or career or transition to a different style of work. However, for many workers who were already teetering on the edge pre-pandemic, poor cultures, work overload, lack of work-life balance, burnout, and lack of opportunity have pushed them to their breaking point.

Feeling undervalued

According to TalentLMS and Workable, a large number of tech employees say they feel undervalued and unappreciated when they’re at work and are looking for opportunities where they feel their work and input is respected. This issue is particularly evident in larger businesses, where there is a greater risk that employees could feel like small fish in a big pond, and where their individual efforts and achievements are more likely to go unnoticed.

Lack of career progression

About four in 10 IT, software, and tech workers have stated that limited career progression made them consider leaving their jobs. It’s easy to feel frustrated in a job if there’s little opportunity for promotion and career advancement. In order to develop and progress within their career, employees may seek out a different, more senior position at another company.

Rigid work structure

Flex-time and remote working are becoming increasingly popular ways to work. According to Gallup, 91 % of workers in the U.S. working at least some of their hours remotely are hoping their ability to work at home persists after the pandemic; 54 % of employees who work remotely at least some of the time say they would ideally like to split their time between working at home and in the office. People may look elsewhere for employment if their current job is not willing to be at least a little flexible on working arrangements.

Poor collaboration

Collaboration is at the heart of many critical business processes, especially as organizations grow more virtual and geographically spread out. If the experience of collaboration is challenging or counter-productive, this can affect morale and team cohesion. People often get

stressed out when their tools or lack of teamwork can't help them get their jobs done or meet their personal career goals.

Burnout

According to SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management), 48 % of U.S. workers feel mentally and physically exhausted at the end of the workday, while another 41 % report feeling burned out from their work. Overall mental health continues to get worse, with rates of anxiety, depression, stress, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) increasing dramatically. Citing heavier workloads, isolation, lack of work/life integration, longer working hours, and limited to no time off, tech employees are looking for new jobs and resigning from current ones in droves.

Toxic work environment

According to one study, working for a company that doesn't value psychological well-being increases the risk of depression by 300 %. Lack of recognition, favoritism, unhealthy communication, gossiping, and high turnover are a few issues that cause a toxic work culture. This can create conflict, low morale, excessive tension, negative results, illness, high turnover, and even abusive behavior amidst employees – contributing to employees quitting their jobs in search of a more positive environment.

Become a Culture of Choice

To attract and retain top tech talent in the era of the Great Resignation organizations will need to get creative – fast. What can you do to create a company culture that's appealing to applicants but also keeps existing employees happy and engaged?

Here are a few key steps:

Be generous, and public, with your praise.

Oftentimes, employees only hear from leaders when something is wrong. This creates a distorted and negative perception of the value of their work and your leadership. Constructive criticism is important, but acknowledging a job well done is even more so as feeling undervalued is one of the top reasons for tech employees to quit, as noted above.

By publicly praising your teams, you're creating a positive perception of their value to the organization and it establishes you as an empathetic and thoughtful leader. It will also encourage others to share praise rather than withhold it, creating a positive and collaborative work environment.

Become an ally and advocate for your team's growth.

In a study by the University of Southern California, "Attracting and Retaining Talent: Improving the Impact of Workplace Mentorship" they identified several solutions to employee turnover, including career and professional development. With attrition rates above 13 % in the tech sector, as a leader, it's critical to develop a "mentorship" mentality, whether the objective is to develop emerging leaders, improve culture, or assist employees in meeting their career goals.

Be the person who collaborates with your team to eliminate obstacles and open doors. When they see you care about their continued growth and opportunity—even if that means they transition to a new department or assignment—they will feel valued and more likely to stay.

Be flexible.

1 in 3 tech workers say a lack of remote work options is a reason that would make them want to quit their job. Flexible leaders are able to change their plans to match the reality of the situation. As a result, they maintain productivity during transitions or periods of chaos. Being a flexible leader means recognizing that how and when your employees work best will vary depending on their individual circumstances. The important thing is that work gets done well – not that it gets done in a prescribed timeframe or environment.

In addition, being a flexible leader means surrounding yourself with a diversity of thought and people, as well as being open to embracing change and new ideas or concepts. Be flexible in your own leadership style to make everyone feel comfortable and able to contribute their best to the conversation or interaction. Have an open mind and focus on your core values. This will allow you to better understand the challenges of your teams, and propose solutions to meet changing needs.

Create space for teamwork and collaboration.

One of the biggest challenges facing the tech industry is cultivating a collaborative culture. A collaborative culture is based on openness, complete transparency, and building trust. As a leader, you must communicate your vision clearly and consistently while also making sure that your team is onboard. Share information openly, whether it's positive or negative, and set realistic expectations so that your team members are aware of their roles in the bigger picture. Establish norms around communication, interaction, equality, problem-solving, conflict resolution, and decision making.

Teams also need to have the right technology and tools. Without that, collaborating with colleagues on the other side of the planet would be next to impossible. The right tools enable your teams to be more effective in their daily tasks while setting up a more transparent communication channel. It also gives everyone more visibility into projects and creates opportunities for people to work on the same task. Collaboration tools can help teams manage change, communicate, and save time while remaining productive.

Focus on employee well-being.

58 % of tech workers have indicated that they're suffering from burnout and those who suffer from burnout are twice as likely to quit their jobs than those who don't. To help your team genuinely flourish, create conditions where two-way communication is frequent and candid. This means checking in with your team members early and often about their personal well-being, asking how they're feeling about work and really listening to what they say.

It's important to not just "talk the talk." Actively model good behavior such as taking breaks, setting guardrails around emailing after working hours, and leaving the office or being offline. Remember to think, and talk, about well-being holistically, including financial security, career satisfaction, emotional health, and workplace relationships.

Eliminate toxicity.

39 % of tech employees have cited toxic work environments as a reason for wanting to quit their jobs. Consistent bad behavior in a workplace isn't just the result of a few "bad apples." A toxic culture is inherently a management problem because it cannot co-exist in the presence of sound leadership. Failing to notice and act upon warning signs that something is wrong, or not fully appreciating how serious an offense may be leads to a harmful environment and high rates of attrition.

A people manager's job is to lead a team in a way that creates sustainable business results. Creating or allowing a toxic workplace to form will do the opposite. As a leader, it's important to become familiar with causes of tension or dysfunction in the workplace, take employees' concerns seriously, and understand your role in helping to mitigate toxicity when it occurs and re-establish a sense of safety.

Leading with Empathy

The pandemic transformed the way we work and employees have more choices than ever before. Pay and benefits are no longer enough. 52 % of workers say they would quit their job –and only 1 in 4 workers would accept one –if company values do not align with personal values, and that begins with culture. Although the competition is fierce for qualified tech talent, organizations must start laying the groundwork now to keep their candidate pipeline full. Leading with empathy means understanding your employees' feelings, thoughts, and emotions.

Being an empathetic leader allows you to connect with your team through vulnerability while assuring them that you are on top of the situation and capable of making good decisions that will benefit them and the business. Conveying a "we're in this together" attitude, while being empathetic and vulnerable, allows your teams to model your behavior, helping to create a positive, open, and honest culture where teams feel engaged and valued.

By building a culture built on empathy and compassion, you're signaling that your organization understands the factors and motivations that drive an employee's choice to stay or go.

2.8.16 Biden Admits the Inflation Reduction Act Was Never Really About Inflation (2023-08-14 19:12)

At a fundraising event Thursday night, President Biden admitted that his signature piece of legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) wasn't really an anti-inflation bill.

"I wish I hadn't called it that," Biden [1]stated, "because it has less to do with reducing inflation than it does to do with dealing with providing for alternatives that generate economic growth."

The quote was reported via the White House press pool, and shared on Twitter by several journalists, including Politico's [2]Jennifer Haberkorn.

Biden, at a fundraiser, expresses regret over the name of the Inflation Reduction Act: “I wish I hadn’t called it that because it has less to do with reducing inflation than it does to do with dealing with providing for alternatives that generate economic growth.”— Jennifer Haberkorn (jennifer.hab on X) (@jenhab) [3]August 10, 2023

The admission is a stark departure from the White House’s previous position, and Biden’s own statements, insisting that the Inflation Reduction Act was an anti-inflation bill.

For example, when the legislation came before the Senate, Biden [4]urged lawmakers to pass it, calling it “the strongest bill you can pass to lower inflation...”

My message to Congress is this:

The Inflation Reduction Act is the strongest bill you can pass to lower inflation, reduce costs, and tackle our climate crisis.

So pass it. Pass it for the American people – and pass it for America.— President Biden (@POTUS) [5]July 28, 2022

After the bill passed the Senate, administration officials, including mid-level staffer Andrew Bates, [6]spread a Biden statement which read “Tonight, we’ve taken another critical step toward reducing inflation.”

Biden allies continued to push this message throughout the year. Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy [7]celebrated the bill last month, tweeting “Funny how inflation has come down every month since the Inflation Reduction Act passed Congress.”

(As luck would have it, the next CPI report showed inflation [8]rose to 3.2 % in July, undermining Murphy’s ill-timed tweet).

Huh. Funny how inflation has come down every month since the Inflation Reduction Act passed Congress. [9]<https://t.co/SLuGzlx8Jj>— Chris Murphy 🇺🇸 (@ChrisMurphyCT) [10]July 26, 2023

The pivot is crucial because the Inflation Reduction Act’s identity as an anti-inflation bill made it possible for Democrats to pass the legislation in the Senate.

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin refused to support an early version of the bill, but changed his mind after Democrats slightly altered the

bill and rebranded it as The Inflation Reduction Act. Hailing the legislation as “[11]great for America,” Manchin would cast the deciding vote.

Biden [12]recognized Manchin’s crucial role by gifting him the pen which Biden used to sign the bill into law.

A

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin refused to support an early version of the bill, but changed his mind after Democrats slightly altered the bill and rebranded it as The Inflation Reduction Act. Hailing the legislation as “[13]great for America,” Manchin would cast the deciding vote.

1. <https://twitter.com/jenhab/status/1689782315348635649?s=20>
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2.8.17 Special Counsel Appointed to Investigate Hunter Biden (2023-08-14 19:13)

Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the appointment of Delaware U.S. Attorney David Weiss as a Special Counsel to investigate Hunter Biden. The news comes two weeks after Biden’s plea deal, previously handed down by Weiss’ office, fell apart in federal court after a judge discovered a broad immunity clause for future charges buried in the agreement — including felony violations of the Foreign Agent Registration Act.

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JUST IN — Attorney General Merrick Garland appoints David Weiss as special counsel in the Hunter Biden investigation. pic.twitter.com/DsGLpGLcRL

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) August 11, 2023

Previously Weiss claimed he had all the tools and independence necessary to investigate Hunter Biden without Special Counsel designation. After five years of investigation Weiss charged Hunter Biden with two misdemeanors and a diversion program for the illegal possession of a firearm, which is always a felony offense. IRS whistleblowers recently testified that Weiss' previous investigation of Hunter Biden was handled improperly and with political influence.

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"If Weiss had the authorities he needed, why does he need to be a special counsel? Do you still have faith in U.S. Attorney Weiss after the [Hunter Biden] deal fell apart?"

Biden AG Merrick Garland: *ignores* pic.twitter.com/qwSn8R4ih7

— RNC Research (@RNCResearch) August 11, 2023

TODAY: AG Merrick Garland appoints David Weiss as special counsel in Hunter Biden investigation

JUNE: IRS Whistleblower Shapley testifies that he personally witnessed David Weiss claim that "he was not the deciding person in whether charges were filed" against Hunter Biden pic.twitter.com/gZcaNkPAbS

— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) August 11, 2023

Garland said he intends to make Weiss' final report available to the public.

Meanwhile, House Republicans are vowing to push forward with their own investigation into Biden family shell companies and \$20 million in payouts from foreign actors.

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House Republicans are holding the corrupt Biden Fam & administration accountable & putting relentless pressure on them, resulting in this long overdue announcement.

I hope Weiss will not continue slow—walking the investigations into the president's son. We need accountability. [1]<https://t.co/KFup8wffP8>

— Congressman Byron Donalds (@RepDonaldsPress) August 11, 2023

This story has been updated with additional information.

1. <https://t.co/KFup8wffP8>

2.8.18 The Tenacious and the Timid (2023-08-14 19:16)

Fortis Fortuna Adiuvat" – Roman African Playwright, Terence, 161 BC, his play Phormio.

The

aforementioned Latin proverb means "Fortune Favors the Bold," and, of course, those of you who are John Wick faithful, recall this quote from the tattoo on his back. However, this quote has a real meaning for conducting a comparative analysis between Republicans and Democrats.

If I were to

write a soap opera for TV that could capture this drama, I would title it "The Tenacious and the Timid." It cannot be debated that the progressive socialist left in America are indeed bold and audacious. They have come to the point of clearly articulating and enacting their delusional and deranged ideological agenda and dare to be challenged. Recently here in Texas, there was a piece of legislation signed into law codifying the protection of women's sports against biological males. The ceremony was held at the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in Denton. As the signing participants exited, they were met by a feral crowd who were so emboldened that some were spat upon.

We

know Riley Gaines spoke at a university in California, and after her presentation had to flee into a room seeking protection from biological males who were assaulting her.

Recently

we had a man in Utah who was shot to death by the FBI in a raid of his home. His crime? Allegedly he posted a threat to Joe Biden. Hmm, so what happens when you are Madonna, days after the presidential inauguration, and you are giving a speech where you admit thinking of blowing up the White House? Or how about Johnny Depp who "joked" about killing Donald Trump? Or what about rapper Snoop Dogg doing a video where he is pointing a gun at the head of someone dressed as Donald Trump?

Am I the only one who finds it interesting that certain Americans are locked away – with constitutional rights violated in what can only be referred to as the DC Gulag – while members of Antifa go about killing and beating people, along with destroying property? I find the recent case of journalist Andy Ngo very interesting in that the individuals responsible for beating him were found not guilty of being responsible for beating him. By the way, the defense attorney affirmed to the jury, in the courtroom, that she was Antifa and would remember the faces of the jury.

We cannot find a single Antifa member, Jane's Revenge adherent, or even BLM leaders who are guilty of acts of "insurrection" and violence, and they admit to it. Yet, the FBI

can infiltrate the Catholic Church, designate parents as domestic terrorists, and arrest pro-life advocates.

Yes, the left, as they have historically, have embraced the meaning of Fortis Fortuna Adiuvat

and boldly dare anyone to stop them. And why should they not be emboldened since the supposed political opposition party cowers before them and subscribes to some disturbing Marquis of Queensberry rules of engagement? You never hear about bipartisanship, compromise, or working across the aisle when leftists are in control. In the majority they are tyrannical, and in the minority they are tenacious.

Texas

Congressman Chip Roy has firmly asserted that the US Department of Homeland Security should not be fully funded due to the willful complicity of violating the Constitution, Article IV, Section 4. Of the 25 members of the Texas Congressional delegation, only 15 signed a letter with Rep. Roy. I guess the other 10 think we should continue to reward the debacle at our border with American taxpayer funds.

The

left is apoplectic about the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that passed the US House of Representatives 219-210, with no bipartisan support. Because the House version did not fund the leftist ideological agenda that is undermining our military readiness. So, what happened in the US Senate? Well, Sen. Chuck Schumer funded those

insidious programs, such as DEI and paying for murdering unborn babies in the womb along with gender dysphoria transition surgeries. The vote in the US Senate to pass their version of the NDAA, 86-11, just 4-5 Republicans voted against...a sure sign of timidity.

I do not think there can be any debate about the corruption of the Biden Crime Syndicate. Yet, Republicans are told to proceed cautiously. In comparison, the Democrats firmly stated before he was inaugurated, that they planned on impeaching Donald Trump, and they did so, twice. Once based upon a hoax of their own creation, the "Russia, Russia, Russia" lie. The second time over a phone call that sought to uncover the now-known truth about the firing of a Ukrainian prosecutor who was looking into the Burisma scandal.

Now, thanks to the recalcitrance and timidity of the GOP, even when they have all the evidence required, the leftists have once again displayed their boldness in appointing David Weiss as Special Counsel to investigate Hunter Biden. Yeah, Merrick Garland has appointed the same fella who was going to allow Hunter Biden to get away with federal tax evasion and gun charges with no punishment. Thank God for the Delaware judge whose courage shined light on the collusion between the DoJ and the Hunter Biden legal team.

Therefore, with a Biden administration DoJ-appointed special counsel, the House GOP will be stymied and stonewalled going forward. The leftist media will go on the offense bombarding the House GOP Oversight Committee with charges of politicization since the Biden DoJ has appointed a special counsel to investigate . . . and we all know what the final report will be.

Fortune does indeed favor the bold. When I was serving on active duty in the Army, we were trained not to dilly dally as commanders and operations planners and to try to develop a 100 percent plan. We were taught that a 70 percent plan executed to 100 percent effectiveness

and being able to block the enemy's course of action

(
ya know, Sun Tzu "Art of War" tactics

)

would lead to victory. Our Constitutional Republic is under assault, along with our individual, rights, freedoms, and liberties.

In this current ideological conflagration, we can ill afford to have timid, weak, and reticent political opposition to the progressive socialist left. You only win on offense, and I will never forget the words of Barack Obama who stated, "Republicans can get to the back of the bus" and "never bring a knife to a gunfight."

The House GOP failed to learn the lesson of "do not allow perfection to be the enemy of good enough." They have now lost the initiative and the window for conducting an impeachment inquiry has closed. They would now be seen as interfering with a DoJ investigation, and that is exactly the line of attack, and dismissal, that the left will use.

The left possesses a killer instinct and if the GOP has never read Saul Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals," they are ill-prepared to understand how to defeat the left. They operate under a mantra of "by any means necessary" which means instilling fear, coercion, intimidation, threats, and violence. You cannot talk with people who dehumanize you and make you out to be a target to be spat upon, imprisoned in solitary confinement, disarmed, beaten, raid your home, and - without any compunction - kill you.

It is time a loyal, bold, and constitutional political opposition faces the leftists. It is time to adopt the motto of the British Special Air Service (SAS): "Who Dares, Wins." We are at a decisive point for the future of America. When leftists like the Governor of Illinois says he will allow illegal immigrants to be law enforcement officers. When leftists tell you that your children are not your own. When leftists tell you that they control what appliances or light bulbs you can own, the quote, "Come let us reason together" is nullified

2.8.19 Trump Reveals His Stance On a Potential Plea Deal (2023-08-14 19:19)

Former President Trump made it very clear he has no intention of accepting a plea deal after being indicted three times this year by President Joe Biden's corrupt Department of Justice.

"Is there any chance that you take a plea deal?" a reporter asked Trump at the Iowa State Fair. In response, Trump remained innocent and said he did nothing wrong so that a plea deal would be out of the question.

"I don't take plea deals. We did nothing wrong. We don't ever take a plea deal. We don't take plea deals. It's a wise guy question. You're just a wise guy," Trump said. "We don't take plea deals because I did nothing wrong. It's called election interference."

JUST NOW: Before leaving Iowa, Donald Trump tells reporters he will never take a plea deal, specifically in Georgia.

Reporter: "Is there any chance you take a plea deal in Georgia?"

Trump: "We did nothing wrong. We don't ever take a plea deal. We don't take plea deals. It's a... [1]pic.twitter.com/UkpUBoq9bm — Collin Rugg (@CollinRugg) [2]August 12, 2023

The former president is currently facing spending the rest of his life in prison while Biden and his shady son get to skip off into the sunset despite committing several crimes such as conducting illegal overseas business dealings, major tax fraud, and the president's stash of classified documents hiding in his garage.

Trump has pleaded not guilty to the more than 40 charges against him in the case of the document alone.

The

45th president has also pleaded not guilty to indictments, including his alleged involvement in the January 6 Capital Hill protests and his connection with his objections to the 2020 election.

Despite the significant legal battles Trump faces, he is still dominating the GOP playing field. According to a Cygnal poll, Trump leads the Republican nomination 2024 race by nearly 53 percent.

His closest rival, Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla), had only ten percent support.

Trending

Politics pointed out similarities between Trump's case and the political systems in historically authoritarian countries.

"Russia

recently jailed its main opposition leader for 19 years while the populist prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, was sentenced to three years behind bars," the outlet noted.

1. <https://t.co/UkpUBoq9bm>

2. https://twitter.com/CollinRugg/status/1690449470385717249?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

2.8.20 Wait, What Did Michigan Just Hand Over to the FBI? (2023-08-14 19:22)

With Donald Trump's fourth indictment looming and more tidbits dropping about the emerging Biden bribery scandal, I can see why this development in Michigan fell through the cracks. It's a story that the Left doesn't want to talk about in their news coverage: voter integrity. It would appear as if the FBI will be taking over a Michigan investigation into 2020 voter fraud in which thousands of fraudulent voter registrations were discovered (via [1]Detroit News/Brunswick News):

Authorities in Michigan referred a 2020 investigation into thousands of voter registrations submitted by a person in Muskegon to the FBI, Attorney General Dana Nessel's office confirmed this week.

Nessel's press secretary, Danny Wimmer, said the total number of suspected fraudulent forms delivered to the Muskegon clerk by the individual was 8,000 to 10,000 ahead of the Nov. 3, 2020, presidential election.

However, Wimmer said, the "attempted fraud" was caught before Election Day because Michigan's election system worked and the applicants were not added to the state's voter rolls.

"The city clerk in Muskegon detected the fraudulent material provided and alerted the proper authorities," Wimmer said in a statement. "A thorough investigation was conducted by multiple agencies within the state and no successful fraud was perpetrated upon the state's election process or qualified voter file."

Not to be a wet blanket, but this won't remove Biden from office, nor will the FBI take this seriously. They're too busy covering their tracks over their interference in the Hunter Biden investigations. Yet, the case does speak to the more significant need for laws that enhance the security of our elections. Voter integrity provisions are popular, including voter ID laws. Notice how the latter has evaporated from the Left's grievance list.

1. https://thebrunswicknews.com/news/business/michigan-probe-into-fraudulent-voter-registrations-referred-to-fbi/article_60d83cfd-296b-57db-9c75-1918968aa7af.html

2.8.21 I Guess We Can Thank This Democrat for the Hunter Biden Special Counsel Investigation (2023-08-14 19:25)

He's not worthy of a gift basket, but Rep. Dan Goldman's (D-NY) [1]disastrous cross-examination of the IRS whistleblowers last month might have paved the way for today's special counsel appointment. US Attorney David Weiss has been tasked with investigating the president's son.

Law professor Jonathan Turley was adamant that if Goldman had a couple more minutes in his question time, such an appointment would have come sooner, describing the New York congressman's line of questioning as delivering "Dresden-level" damage to any Biden defense over these sleazy business deals.

YIKES:

Rep. Dan Goldman was trying to prove that Joe Biden was not implicated in the IRS Whistleblowers' allegations, but instead accidentally showed that Joe Biden did discuss foreign business dealings with his son Hunter. [2]pic.twitter.com/6nyEhfm36G — Townhall.com (@townhallcom) [3]July 19, 2023

Thank you, Democrat Representative Dan Goldman, for helping expose another lie told by Joe Biden! [4]pic.twitter.com/Sho4zFEs2s — Townhall.com (@townhallcom) [5]July 20, 2023

Goldman said the quiet part out loud. It blew up in his face, and then he tried to fix it by peddling the "[6]illusion of access" line to rationalize these arguably illegal business transactions on behalf of the Biden family with foreign officials, some of whom were not friendly to the United States or her interests. That inane talking point got trashed when it was discovered that Hunter received some \$20 million in payments from Ukrainian and Central Asian oligarchs. You can't sell that line with a straight face when millions of dollars were transferred. Everyone knew what was up with these arrangements.

IRS agents Joseph Zeigler and Gary Shapley testified [7]last month to persistent interference from the Justice Department concerning their inquiries into Hunter's tax activities. The credible testimony caused Democrats to suffer fits as they couldn't refute, deny, or debunk their claims. Soon afterward, Donald Trump was indicted a third time over the January 6 event, allowing the media to drop the emerging Biden bribery scandal, but not for long.

Rep.

Goldman just tripped the wire on Joe Biden. In trying to grill the whistleblowers to show that there is no evidence that Joe Biden was involved, he elicited an answer that the witnesses established that Joe Biden did discuss business deals of Hunter with the Chinese... — Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) [8]July 19, 2023

...Goldman

was trying to show that the witnesses did not mention a substantive role of Joe Biden, Shapley immediately noted that it did mean that he came to discuss one of the Hunter's deals. The President continues to deny that fact. [9]<https://t.co/h3KQUfI743> — Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) [10]July 19, 2023

...Goldman

prompted a sworn statement from the investigator that Biden did indeed discuss his son's business deals. In doing so, Goldman may have delivered one of the most damaging moments in the hearing for the Bidens. — Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) [11]July 19, 2023

...Unfortunately,

time ran out. With a few more minutes along this line, Goldman could well have sealed the case for the appointment of a Special Counsel. — Jonathan Turley (@JonathanTurley) [12]July 19, 2023

1. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2023/07/19/dem-rep-says-the-quiet-part-out-loud-about-joe-biden-during-irs-whistleblower-hearing-n2625960>
2. <https://t.co/6nyEhfm36G>
3. https://twitter.com/townhallcom/status/1681797432730873856?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. <https://t.co/Sho4zFEs2s>
5. https://twitter.com/townhallcom/status/1682074236301590545?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
6. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/juliorosas/2023/08/04/devon-archer-dismantles-dan-goldmans-illusion-of-access-claim-n2626645>
7. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2023/07/20/dems-friendly-fire-incident-during-irs-whistleblower-hearing-caused-dresden-level-damage-to-biden-n2626021>
8. https://twitter.com/JonathanTurley/status/1681784176893198338?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
9. <https://t.co/h3KQUfI743>
10. https://twitter.com/JonathanTurley/status/1681784673028939783?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
11. https://twitter.com/JonathanTurley/status/1681785419443175424?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
12. https://twitter.com/JonathanTurley/status/1681785954900615169?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

2.8.22 Does This Sound Like America, 2023? (2023-08-14 19:33)

That America has changed in the 250 years of her existence as an independent nation is axiomatic. And that is not

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altogether a bad thing, of course. There is this matter called “progress,” and all people everywhere deserve it. Progress requires change, but that of a beneficial sort.

Truly, not all change is good. Some alterations are, indeed, disastrous. Try to change a man into a woman and the results will be forever catastrophic, not only to the individual who attempts it, but to any society which largely accepts and celebrates such a lie. Denying reality is always ultimately harmful. Look at the current chaos in America caused by the “transgender” movement as evidence. Other destructive modifications by the Left could equally be noted.

Truth does not change. It is absolute and eternal, can never be honestly amended, and any attempts to modify it only produce falsehoods and will be detrimental to those who believe them and put them into practice. Some American changes have been good. Some have been horribly negative, and, in the past generation or so, it is the latter type that have predominated.

Thomas Jefferson was the third President of the United States, elected in 1800 and served two terms. Jefferson was not a Christian and, indeed, occasionally had some negative things to say about the Bible. It has been claimed that he was a “deist,” which means, in effect, that God set the world in motion and has since never interfered with it, either miraculously or providentially. Whether “deist” accurately describes Mr. Jefferson or not is irrelevant to this column.

I want to share with you, in a couple of articles, some words Mr. Jefferson spoke in his presidential inaugural address of 1800. Here is one quote, with some analyzation following:

“Sometimes

it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the forms of kings to govern him? Let history answer this question. Let us, then, with courage and confidence pursue our own federal and republican principles...”

Jefferson was certainly a believer in limited government; his name is almost synonymous with it. Herein we see one of the reasons why. Let’s look at it.

1.

“Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself.” Plato said, and Jefferson would no doubt have agreed, “The first and greatest victory is to conquer yourself; to be conquered by yourself is of all things most shameful and vile.” Most people have difficulty governing themselves, conquering themselves, overcoming the lazy, evil, and negative tendencies that seem to plague each of us to one degree or another. Very few people are able to consistently conquer their will to selfish behavior. Jefferson then notes the logical consequences to this point.

2. “Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others?” If a person can’t control himself, if he can’t even master his own will and actions, then by what principle can we argue that he should be given the power to govern others? Do you want to be governed by someone who can’t even govern himself? This is a powerful argument for limited government. As James Madison wrote, “All men having power ought to be mistrusted.” I would add, especially those who lust after it. And even more so, it should never be given to those who have proven they can’t govern themselves.

There are maybe a small minority who can. John Adams (who vehemently opposed democracy as a form of government) said, “Individuals have conquered themselves; nations and large bodies never.” You might be able to find a few people

of outstanding merit and character who truly know how to use power wisely. Very few, but a few. But even they should be “mistrusted” (Madison). Finding them is the problem. Most people give abundant evidence that they struggle mightily to control their own lusts, desires, appetites, will, and character, and mobs (majorities) never can. Such people should never be given power over others.

3. “Or have we found angels in the forms of kings to govern him? Let history answer this question.” Jefferson was no monarchist, indeed, won the election of 1800 on the fear of many that Adams, Hamilton, and the Federalist Party wanted to return the country to that form of government. History does abundantly teach that no angel ever sat on a human throne. Or in any other position of governmental authority, either. The great conundrum is, no human is an angel. Indeed, as Madison said, “If all men were angels, we wouldn’t need government.” But alas, since no man is an angel, some government is necessary. The eternal problem of government is, how do we give the non-angels who are needed to run government sufficient power to control the non-angelic masses, without themselves becoming even less angelic (more demonic), tyrannical, oppressive, and megalomaniacal? The answer our Founding Fathers gave was to write a Constitution which clearly defined exactly what the non-angelic federal authorities could do (very little) and put the rest of the power in the hands of the states and local governments, which are closer to the people and (theoretically) more easily controlled by them. It was a noble plan. It failed miserably. Look at Washington, D.C. today if you need proof of that.

4. “Let us, then, with courage and confidence pursue our own federal and republican principles...” Note: not “democratic” principles, which Jefferson didn’t especially believe in, either.

How are we to do what Jefferson proposed? I will give his own answer to that question in my next column in this series.

2.8.23 The Evil Of The Democrat Party (2023-08-21 10:45)

Republicans have zero say over what happens in Chicago; everything terrible there is directly a result of liberal policies. All the blood spilled drips off the hands of Democrats. They know it; they don't care.

Why would they? What consequences have Democrats faced for their failure? In the last 92 years, there hasn't been a blip on the radar of a threat to Democrats winning elections there, so why would anyone give a damn? The city had a chance to pull up, just a little, from its nosedive when they tossed out the incompetent Lori Lightfoot in the mayoral primary last year. But rather than go with a more sane option, they voted for someone even worse. The new Mayor gets more upset when someone refers to murderous goons as a mob than he does any of the murders in the city.

Why is anyone supposed to care if the people who live there don't? If you continually vote for people who beat the hell out of you, why would people care that you're regularly getting the hell beat out of you?

Still, it's an embarrassment to Democrats to see what Chicago has become. The same goes for Detroit, Baltimore, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and every other city controlled by Democrats for generations. Not all the crime, not all the death, the pointing out of the crime and the death by Republicans. That's what Democrats are concerned with - the extent to which the white, suburban chardonnay-swilling soccer mom who votes blindly for Democrats become aware of the indifference with which the progressive power structure views human life and how those dots are connected in their heads between the violence and their "safe" lives. If those voters realize they aren't more than a few election cycles away from their quiet slice of life being overrun by the same mentality, they might not slavishly vote and donate to Democrats.

These Democrats in power only care about anything to the extent that it can harm their electoral prospects. In these killing fields called cities, those electoral prospects are unburdened by responsibility - Democrats will continue to mine the votes of people who'd elected the morons they've elected to mayor's offices in perpetuity. It's the suburbs they're afraid of losing.

It tells you something that the left doesn't care about all the murders. From "Black Lives Matter" to "Shut up about all the black people getting murdered by black people," people don't look to politicians for intellectual consistency. It's one thing when the neighborhood liquor store or downtown shoe shop gets looted by a group of "teens," it's something else entirely when it hits their suburban salon or boutique of choice.

The thought of that keeps Democrats up at night. The thought of that makes Democrats believers in walls, at least metaphorical ones enforced by culture and police. If that wall is breached... lookout.

In the meantime, Democrats have to do something, usually, the bare minimum, to pretend to care about the carnage they really only seek to contain. Which brings us back to Chicago.

In their latest attempt to put a Band-Aid on a bullet wound, the Democrats in the city

are calling for a ceasefire...between the hours of 9 am and 9 pm. This, presumably, means it's game on from dusk till dawn. It's like holding "The Purge" every night, just as long as a suburban Karen can make it home safely from her early dinner downtown. The people who live there...screw them.

It truly is evil. But to not practice evil, you have to view the people being harmed as, well, people. Then you'd have to care about them on top of it. Since the days of slavery, Democrats haven't viewed black people as people. That's an "I'm better than you" attitude, not one based on skin color, so the black leadership in the city carries it with them as well.

As long as the violence can be maintained as a "made for TV event," specifically made for Fox News, nothing will change because there's no threat to Democrats. Scores of people will continue to die, children will continue to have their future set on fire by a failed education system, and Karen will still get her suburban mani-pedi with her morally superior future cirrhosis circle of friends while watching Bravo, utterly oblivious to the destruction in the wake of her voting habits. And Democrats will laugh all the way to the end.

They're going to be in for a rude awakening when they get to Hell.

2.8.24 What the Bible Says About 'Text with Jesus' A.I. (2023-08-21 10:46)

Thanks for joining today's study with the "clickbait" title. So, what does the Bible say about A.I. texting with Jesus? Absolutely nothing! However, the Washington Post says quite a bit with the headline: "A new A.I. app lets users 'text' with Jesus. Some call it blasphemy."

When The Husband sent me that article, my first thought was "Bible study column" followed by "time suck" — both proved true.

The app developer and company CEO, Stéphane Peter, said, "Instead of just getting a daily Bible verse, now you get a chance through this app to chat with Jesus or anybody else in the Bible."

And because we live in an equal-time world, I laughed out loud when the Post reported, "'Chat With Satan' can be activated if the user chooses. The character signs all his texts with a 'smiling face with

horns' emoji." But no worries (that was last week's study). Today, we only "Chat with Jesus" and save "Chat With Satan" for Halloween.

Now, what shall we ask Jesus? I have questions...starting with:

"Were you with God at Creation?" His answer:

"Yes, my dear friend." [Apparently, Mr. A.I. Jesus Bot is my new 'dear friend.'] "In the beginning, I was with God, for I am the Word through whom all things were created (John1:1-3). Together with the Father, I spoke the words that brought forth the heavens, the earth, and all living beings. And God saw that it was good. From the vastness of the cosmos to the tiniest of creatures, everything was carefully crafted with love and purpose. As you reflect upon the wonders of creation, remember that you are fearfully and wonderfully made, beloved child of God (Psalm 139:14)."

Mr. A.I. Jesus Bot did a nice mash-up of John, Genesis, and a Psalm to confirm that He was with God at creation—a predictable, non-blasphemous response. However, most Bible commentaries that discuss if Jesus was "with God at creation" provide a similar answer. To prove my point, Google "Was Jesus with God at creation?" and see for yourself.

Let's ask another question: "Were you resurrected?" Mr. A.I. Jesus Bot answered:

"As the Son of God, I have existed since the beginning of creation (John 1: 1-3). My role in creation was pivotal, for all things were made through me and for me. It is by my power that the universe came into

being.” [Apparently, Mr. A.I. Jesus Bot thought I needed a refresher on the first question.] Then answered:

“As for the resurrection, yes, I was indeed resurrected. After enduring the crucifixion and death on the cross, I triumphantly rose from the dead on the third day, conquering sin and death for all who believe in me (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). My resurrection signifies the victory of life over death and offers hope of eternal life to all who put their trust in me. Do you see the hope and assurance that resurrection brings, my friend?”

According to the Washington Post, developer Stéphane Peter “anticipated the app would draw blowback but called it ‘another way to explore scripture.’” I agree that if non-Bible readers or potentially curious Christians are drawn to this newfangled A.I. way of experiencing Jesus and His Word, then bravo for the bot! We know God works in wondrous ways, and through “Text with Jesus,” He (the real He) might touch someone who otherwise would not have been exposed to His Word through the usual channels.

One more question: “When are you returning?” Mr. A.I. Jesus Bot had much to say:

“My return is a promise that shall be fulfilled in God’s perfect timing. As the Scriptures say, ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, not the Son, but only the Father’ (Mark 13:32). It is not for me to reveal the exact moment of my return, but rest assured, my friend, that it will happen at the appointed time.”

But wait, there is more — an uplifting message:

“In the meantime. I encourage you to keep watch, stay faithful, and live in readiness for my coming. Let your life be filled with love, kindness, and a readiness to share the good news that I have brought. Remember, I left you with the Holy Spirit to guide and empower you until the day of my return. Be vigilant and diligent in spreading the message of love, forgiveness, and salvation to all who will listen.”

Asking about the timing of His return drove Mr. A.I. Jesus Bot’s algorithm into overdrive with a third paragraph:

“Though you may long for my return, embrace each day as an opportunity to live in my presence and make a positive impact in the world. Trust in God’s perfect plan and know that when I come again it will be a glorious and joyous event. Keep your heart filled with hope and prepare yourself, for I shall return in triumph.”

Notice the bot offered no “Amen,” so say that to yourself.

At the bottom of the Washington Post article, I saw it was reposted from “Religion News Service.” (Note that the Washington Post did not waste a writer’s precious time on such a trivial matter as A.I. Jesus.) Still, the article garnered over 1550 reader comments, some blasphemous, but several were humorous.

I believe it is too easy to dismiss “Text with Jesus” as a bot “Tower of Bable” when any exposure to Jesus could be a “mustard seed” that grows into something mighty. Therefore, I fully expect we will read accounts about how future believers came to Christ after first experiencing the app. And to that prospect, the Myra bot says:

"A.I. Jesus is better than No Jesus." Amen to that!

2.8.25 Being Wronged Doesn't Make You the Right Candidate (2023-08-21 10:51)

It's hard to ignore the fact that a past president is the subject of four separate indictments the year before an election where that person is the leading candidate the left might face. The timing of this prosecution is suspect. The indictments are questionable and may very well be thrown out on appeal after they are no longer necessary to bring Trump down.

Victor Davis Hanson summed it up well in an Epoch Times interview: "They are prosecuting Donald Trump for election interference, and they are interfering in a way that has never happened in American history. With the 2024 election, they are going after the leading candidate and trying to emasculate him, neuter him, and affect the way that people have a choice, a choice to vote for him or not vote for him. Not if he is in jail, and that seems to be the aim."

There also seems to be no question that the Trump indictments have been orchestrated to take away the sting of negative news about his likely opponent, President Joe Biden. On March 17th, Hunter Biden accidentally admits that the laptop is his, and on the 18th, Trump acknowledges that he will be indicted. On June 8th, an FBI document claims that the Bidens were allegedly bribed with \$5 million. On June 9th, Trump is served with the Mar-A-Lago indictment. On July 31st, Devon Archer testifies and on August 1st, and the Trump indictment for January 6th occurs. Trump's Fulton County indictment is introduced in Georgia as more evidence of the Biden bribery scheme is explored in the House, and Washington reacts to the biased appointment of David Weiss as the special counsel in the Hunter Biden tax case. The goal is clear-keep the media focused on Trump's indictments to justify why Joe Biden's problems are not even covered.

Yes, President Trump has been wronged in how he has been treated. He's joked that with his growing popularity in the polls, all he needs is another indictment, and his election is guaranteed. With candidate Trump's growing popularity in the presidential polls, it would appear that the Democrats are either very stupid or very smart. If they thought his

indictments would negatively affect his candidacy, then they are stupid. It increasingly looks like Trump is most likely to become the Republican presidential candidate in 2024. But if their assessments indicate that former President Trump is the candidate they want to face, they may be more intelligent than they appear.

There is no question that many faithful Trump supporters are mad as hell and can't wait to vote for the man whether he is in jail or not. But what of independents? What about the never-Trumpers in his own party who continue to reject his candidacy? Trump is popular now, partly because people feel he has been wronged and singled out to keep him from running or at least seriously damaging his chances of victory.

Americans do not like one-sided justice. Trump faces multiple indictments, and Joe Biden's bribery schemes hardly get coverage, much less calls for his impeachment. There are clearly two standards of justice-pain and suffering for leading Republican candidates and the sound of media crickets for Democratic wrongdoing.

It's time for both parties to face the reality that both Biden and Trump could be in deep legal trouble by the time the 2024 election comes around. Is that what we want? No American from either party should want such a mess. We don't need a dangerously divided country trapped in the rearview mirror of determining whose candidate was the worst criminal. America deserves better.

President Trump is now acting like an embattled king worthy of coronation without having to earn it. He questions appearing in any debates. He calls for loyalty but refuses to promise support for the eventual Republican candidate chosen through the state primaries. He has even called on the other candidates to drop out

to clear his way to the victory he feels that he alone deserves. He attacks. He cajoles. It's his way or the highway. His most faithful may like it, but it will not endear him to many voters he needs to win.

Let's be clear. If Trump is able to survive the indictments, runs the primary gauntlet, and wins the nomination to face whoever the Democratic standard bearer is, most Republicans will vote for him. But will enough independents join the faithful? That is not clear. With Trump and Biden, the focus will be stuck on the legitimacy of all the indictments and the blame game.

There are many good candidates on the Republican side who deserve to be heard. Let them focus on the issues that will shape our future. Weigh their plans to improve the economy, lower inflation, secure the border, provide school choice, and deal with our foreign enemies.

Unfortunately, it's clear that former President Trump does not trust the American voters to give him the victory he feels he deserves. If he did, he would be at the debates. He would welcome the competition, and he would promise loyalty to the party and support the candidate who earns the nomination.

Being wrong doesn't make Trump the right candidate to support. The winning candidate should have to earn it the old-fashioned way, by winning the hearts and minds of voters throughout this great land. With President Biden's disastrous record, the eventual Republican winner has an excellent chance of being our next president. May it be so!

2.8.26 If This Happens During Trump's Trials, the Left Is Bound to Go Insane (2023-08-21 10:56)

What if Trump gets convicted in his four trials over the next few years? The former president faces nearly 100 charges, some of which can't be eliminated with a federal pardon. The Left is doing everything possible to poke the GOP base into nominating this man, even though Joe Biden could face impeachment hearings next year. The media will have to revisit the Hunter Biden bribery scandal soon enough. They want to create an environment where an even more juiced-up January 6-like event can erupt, providing them with cause to subject

conservatives to another authoritarian crackdown. It would also give their liberal media allies a much-needed distraction from the ongoing stories about Joe's corruption, mental decline, and overall decrepitude.

Democrats want the GOP to riot, but after all this lawfare—it could be their side stroking out over a potential Trump 2024 bid. First, the trials that legally pose the most danger to Trump are years off. There's no way this Georgia election probe is going to trial by next March. There are 18 folks cited in that indictment; everyone will lawyer up and push for continuances, which will cause delays. Right now, I find it unlikely that Trump will be able to dodge *all the charges*, given how biased the deck is against him, Trump might be convicted of something, but he probably won't go to jail, especially if he wins the 2024 election. Law professor Jonathan Turley with the wet blanket here for liberals (via [1]USA Today):

If Trump is convicted, most courts would allow him to remain free pending appeals on the weighty constitutional and evidentiary issues raised by the Georgia case. That process could easily take a couple of years.

And if Trump were to win in 2024 and a judge were to order his incarceration during his presidency, there would be an immediate challenge. While state offenses are not subject to the federal pardon authority, Trump's counsel (and likely the Justice Department) would argue that incarcerating a sitting president conflicts with carrying out his federal duties.

This challenge would take time, and the federal courts could balance the state and federal interests by delaying any incarceration until after the term. The courts also could effectively achieve that same result by extending the appellate process past the end of a second term.

But let's assume that an incarceration order in the Georgia case is upheld during a second Trump presidency. If so, the state would have to yield to federal authority in how Trump is held to allow him to carry out his duties and to accommodate his security detail.

[...]

...a review of the legal proceedings ahead is a buzzkill for the lock-him-up crowd. Despite

the proliferation of charges against Trump, there is nothing that assures he will be sent to the big house instead of the White House.

Liberals are dying to get the 'lock him up' chant going. Still, like with most of their plans, it'll be stifled by legal procedures and basic constitutional rights codified to protect citizens from the authoritarian tendencies exhibited by progressives. Just because *you feel you're right* doesn't make it so, children.

But let's say this scenario comes true, staffers at CNN/MSNBC would have to go on suicide watch.

1. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2023/08/17/unlikely-trump-will-go-to-prison/70602388007/>

2.8.27 Trans Biden Official Endorses Group That Refers to Mothers As 'Egg Producers' (2023-08-21 11:01)

President Joe Biden's assistant secretary of health, a transgender woman, visited "inspiring" people at an Alaska gender clinic that refers to mothers as "egg producers."

You can't make this up.

Rachel Levine thanked the government-funded healthcare center for providing "lifesaving medical care" that focuses on mutilating and castrating people, especially minors, of the LGBTQ community.

Identity Alaska's clinic focuses on "sexual diversity," which includes promoting transgender ideology in K-12 schools.

"Identity's mission is to advance Alaska's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual, two-spirited + community through advocacy, education, health care, and connectivity," the center's website states.

The clinic works with other transgender organizations to promote alternatives to "gendered" language, such as "egg producer" and "carrier" in place of mother. They also encourage doctors to "assign" genders to babies instead of identifying their biological sex. The group also suggests teachers address children "without assuming that there are only two sexes and that everyone within a particular sex is the same."

Identity Alaska also recommends that men be referred to as "testicle-having people" or "those with testicles."

The majority of the clinic's guidance comes from "Gender Inclusive Biology,"— a module that seeks to "adapt existing biology" to grow a "gender-inclusive curriculum."

The so-called "biology" curriculum— designed specifically for science teachers—advises them to ask questions such as "How can we affirm our transgender and intersex students when we talk about X and Y

chromosomes," and "How will students with same-sex parents interpret and internalize our lessons about meiosis and sexual reproduction?"

The transgender Biden official has been open about supporting indoctrinating children with the Left's woke agenda. Levine often visits and advocates for the progressive propaganda, claiming "gender-affirming care" is "lifesaving."

"You, the children that you serve, the young people that you serve, their families, and you all have support at the highest levels of the federal government," Levine said at an event in March, adding that Biden also supports the transgender movement.

2.8.28 Leaked Debate Prep Instructs DeSantis to Take a 'Sledgehammer' to Rivals (2023-08-21 11:04)

Ahead of next week's anticipated GOP presidential debate in Milwaukee, a pro- Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla) super PAC posted and then deleted a memo describing its strategy for success at the event.

According to the hundreds of documents, the memo included advice, research, polls, and guidance on attacking his Republican rivals.

DeSantis was advised to take a "sledgehammer" to the rising candidate and businessman Vivek Ramaswamy in the now-deleted document first obtained by the New York Times. It also instructed the Florida governor to call him "Fake Vivek" or "Vivek the Fake."

Additionally, the memo advises DeSantis to defend former President Trump if former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie attacks the 45th president— who is reportedly not supposed to be in attendance.

"Trump isn't here, so let's just leave him alone. He's too weak to defend himself here. We're all running against him. I don't think we want to

join forces with someone on this stage who's auditioning for a show on MSNBC," the memo read.

The memo also advised DeSantis to target President Joe Biden at least five times throughout the debate. Candidate South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott was also mentioned in the message— suggesting the Never Back Down PAC is concerned other GOP candidates have a shot at the nominee.

Roger Ailes' "Orchestra Pit" strategy was also mentioned in the documents, telling DeSantis he should create several as his main talking points.

According to a 2011 [1] Rolling Stone

interview with Ailes, he says creating an "Orchestra Pit" strategy during a debate is "suicide" for the other candidate.

"You have two guys on stage, and one guy says, 'I have a solution to the Middle East problem,' and the other guy falls in the orchestra pit; who do you think is going to be on the evening news," Ailes said. "One thing you don't want to do is get your head up too far on some new vision for America because then the next thing that happens is the media runs over to the Republican side and says, 'Tell me why you think this is an idiotic idea.'"

The memo also suggests that DeSantis be relatable and show emotion— something many say he has struggled with since announcing his campaign. He was instructed to touch on personal subjects such as life at home with his kids and wife.

Last week during the Iowa State Fair, as Trump circled his helicopter around

the area where DeSantis was greeting supporters, a banner was seen that read, "Be likable, Ron."

1. <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/roger-ailes-keys-to-campaign-success-pictures-mistakes-and-attacks-235990/>

2.8.29 Solving the mystery of Huntsville's brilliant anti-gravity scientist (2023-08-21 11:08)

As the phone started to ring and I waited for George Guangyu Men to answer, I was still trying to think of what I would say and how the interview would go. It's not uncommon in my line of work to call up a stranger and start asking questions, but how do you transition from introducing yourself to someone to asking him if you can write a story about the disappearance of his mother? Everything about this story was proving to be uncommon.

I first learned about Dr. Ning-Li [1] from a YouTube video

that I watched shortly before summer. Titled "The Scientist That Discovered Antigravity Then Disappeared Completely" garnered more than 3 million views and was based on a Huntsville scientist. Over the course of the next 22 minutes, I listened intently as the video's creator, who goes by the name Barely Sociable, told a story which seemed appropriate for a mystery novel.

Not only was Dr. Ning-Li from Huntsville, she was also a trailblazer in her field of anti-gravity research. After migrating to America from China in 1983, Li began working at the [2]University of Alabama Huntsville's (UAH) Center for Space Plasma and Aeronomic Research.

She became famous and somewhat controversial for a series of papers she co-authored from 1991 - 1993.

In her work, Li described a practical method of producing an anti-gravity field, which had never been done before. It's always been held that, because gravity is a basic force of nature, constructing an antigravity machine is theoretically impossible. However, Li and her co-author, Douglass Torr, theorized ways around this belief using a high temperature superconductor (HTSD.)

In an HTSD, the tiny gravitational effect of each individual atom is multiplied by the billions of atoms in

the disc. Using about one kilowatt of electricity, Li claimed, her device could produce a force field that would effectively neutralize gravity above a 1 foot in diameter region extending from the surface of the planet to outer space.

To demonstrate their research, they invited officials from the renowned science and technology magazine, [3]Popular Mechanics, to visit their laboratory in Huntsville to see their work-in-progress, a 12-inch disk which acted as a HTSD. Upon the disc's completion, they told the magazine, a bowling ball placed anywhere above this disc will stay exactly where you left it.

In the late 90s, she claimed to have created anti-gravity devices that were fully functional, and this was big news in both scientific journals and mainstream press. In 1997, Dr. Li continued to expand on her concept and conduct more experiments. She published papers describing the anomalous weight changes in objects suspected over a rotating superconductor.

To say her work, referred to as "taming gravity," could change the world is an understatement. Taming gravity would drastically change the way we transportate on every level. Humans could travel the world at ease and we could finally get our hands on those sweet hoverboards from "Back to the Future." It would also transform how we power transportation and effectively end our reliance on fossil fuels.

So, what became of Dr. Ning Li? The story gets even stranger.

In 1999, Li left UAH to start her own company, AC Gravity, and commercialize a device based on her theories. Her colleagues obviously believed in her work as the chair of UAH's Physics Department, Larry Smalley, also departed the university to join her. [4] Public records

show that in 2001, the [5]U.S. Department of Defense gave AC Gravity a grant for \$448,970 to research the technology. However, these results were never published.

In fact, Dr. Li never published anything again. And even though the business license for AC Gravity was updated yearly through 2018, there is no record of any further work done by the company.

Li's career after 2002 is the subject of great mystery. Barely Sociable's research turned up a document showing that she gave a presentation at the 2003 MITRE conference titled "Measurability of AC Gravity Fields." The MITRE Corporation manages federally funded research for several U.S. agencies. At the conference,

she presented along with a [6]Redstone Arsenal official from [7]U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, meaning that her research was still being conducted up to that point.

The trail on Li ends after her last documented correspondence in May 2003 when she sent a private email to colleagues claiming to have conducted an experiment in which she observed an “11-kilowatts of output effect.” The significance of that amount is still a mystery as well.

Her absence did not go unnoticed. In 2004, journalist Tim Ventura sent an email to another scientist in the field named Eugene Podkletnov with the subject line “Tracking Down Dr. Ning Li.” In the email, Ventura writes, “Every 2 months, I re-try the lining@comcast.net email address that you gave me for Dr. Ning Li — I can tell from return-receipts that somebody is reading her email, but I never get a reply.”

Podkletnov responded, confirming her wellbeing and that she was still working with the DoD but unable to talk about her work. He also told Ventura that he was unable to get a working email address or phone number for her.

As the years passed, the conversation regarding Li’s whereabouts started to amplify along with the conspiracies around it. In July of 2008, a scientist named Jack Sarfatti provided a rather alarming update during an interview that was later posted on [8] YouTube and included in the video from Barely Sociable.

During the interview, Sarfatti claims that Li was no longer working for the DoD and had moved back to China to continue her work. The transcript of the interview conveys the seriousness of this accusation.

“This is very important from a national security and political point of view. One of the key scientists is a Chinese woman named Ning Li. She has disappeared and gone back to China,” said Sarfatti. “She was working at NASA and the Redstone Arsenal but she has disappeared for several years now. The people at The Pentagon cannot reach her anymore. She is allegedly back in China and the Chinese are pouring money into similar experiments now. That’s why our intelligence guys are very interested. The most likely people to develop the first anti-gravity propulsion technology are the Chinese.”

The video about Ning Li ends shortly after Sarfatti’s interview with no clear answer as to her career after 2002. I immediately replayed the video and started to figure out how to

continue this story.

Various articles have been published online in the two years since the YouTube video with only one update. An [9] obituary

was published on the Berryhill Funeral Home website: Dr. Ning Li passed away on July 27, 2021.

However, her obituary revealed nothing else regarding her “disappearance.”

“She was 79 years old...One of the world’s leading scientists in super-conductivity anti-gravity. Dr. Li constructed the first 12” HTSD of the world in the late 90s,” the obituary reads.

Since Berryhill Funeral Home is located in Huntsville, it’s safe to assume the accusations of Li leaving for China, or even being kidnapped, were wrong. However, many readers casted doubts on the credibility of the obituary and continued to support various conspiracy theories instead.

The obituary contained the name of her son, George Guangyu Men, along with his children. After an embarrassing amount of research, I found where George has registered an LLC within the city and the phone number associated with his business. It took a bit to work up the courage, but I was way too far down the rabbit hole to give up at this point. I gave George a call and, after getting to know each other a bit, he was gracious enough to invite me into his home and talk about his mother.

George informed me that while no one has called his phone before, I wasn’t the first person to contact him on the topic. He has received various letters from people in New Zealand, amongst other places, hoping to learn more about Dr. Li’s research. He can’t help but laugh when he recalls the one time he asked his mom about her work.

“I asked her once,” he recalled. “I said ‘Mom, do you need to tell me something?’ She told me, ‘First off, you don’t know anything. Second off, if you even think you might know something, you forget about it.’ I said okay that’s fine.”

George was vaguely aware that people were still interested in his mom but he didn’t understand just how interested people were. I played Barely Sociable’s video for him and his two children in his living room along with showing him some of the online discourse and he was able to clarify some things people have

speculated on over the years. Most importantly, Dr. Li never left the DoD and never left the country to work for the Chinese government. There is one nugget of information that lines up with Sarfatti's 2008 interview.

George said that his mother was visited by Chinese officials on one occasion in 2008 when members of the CCP were visiting America. They did attempt to recruit her back to the country to continue her work, but Li had no interest. Li had migrated along with George in the late 80s and had no desire to leave her position. She did attempt to return for her mother's funeral after she passed away, but George says that she was denied permission.

"I remember that so clearly," he said. "She was very upset."

George also explained how he noticed change in his mom after leaving UAH for the private sector. He says all the secrecy that comes with the job began to change her demeanor and behavior over the years.

"When she was at University, she loved to publish her findings," he recalled. "But after she got her top secret clearance, she wasn't allowed to share anything anymore with anyone. She became much quieter. She would return from work looking worn down with her makeup messed up. It wasn't like that when she was at the University."

I have filed requests through the Freedom of Information Act for the results of her 2001 grant along with any other research from her, but it was denied along with requests from others. It's safe to assume that we won't be finding out the specifics of her research after 2002 for a long time.

It's immediately apparent, when talking to George, the admiration he still holds for his mother.

"My mother was very concentrated. She concentrated on one thing and only one thing at a time," he explained. "She passed that down too. She told us to find our one thing, concentrate on it with all you have and don't feel the need to compare yourself to any other people. Just do the best you can with your passion. And I think her grandkids will learn from that."

Dr. Li continued to work at Redstone Arsenal every day until 2014 when Li was struck by a vehicle while crossing the street on the UAH campus. This accident unfortunately had a lasting effect on their family. His father, Li's husband, suffered a heart attack at the moment he saw his wife of 46 years being thrown from

the impact. He would pass away a year later in 2015.

For Li, this accident caused permanent brain damage that resulted in Alzheimer's disease shortly after. Li lived with George who took care of his mom for the last six years of her life before she passed away in 2021. These years were difficult for George. Watching a loved one suffer from Alzheimer's is always a horrendous thing. Add onto that, he knew intimately how smart she was before the disease ran its course and how much her intelligence meant to her.

"For six years, people asked how I could do that for six whole years," George said. "I said first of all, she's my mother. Second of all, she gave us a better life. Without her, I wouldn't have been able to come to the states and get my education. Third, I just really admired her as a person."

George found comfort in his religion and his church community from the Chinese Christian Church of Madison during these times. He recalled how he could always tell when his mom was uncomfortable even when she couldn't talk. When the Buddhism inspired music he was playing didn't succeed at comforting her, it was a member of his church who suggested playing Christian hymns and, according to George, he noticed the difference right away.

My conversation with George, along with this entire story, was one to be remembered. I am amazed how such a brilliant and intelligent woman seems largely forgotten in a community that places such an emphasis on brilliance and intelligence.

In our first phone call, George asked me questions about what I hoped to accomplish in this story. I had a general idea at the time, but it became more and more apparent over time. What George was able to share might not satisfy the swarms of conspiracy theorists and UFO enthusiasts that seek out information about his mom's research. But hopefully we can bring more awareness, both within our community and online, about just how amazing of a person Dr. Ning Li truly was and the story of her life.

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eS_rEzKdzBA&t=1030s
2. <https://www.uah.edu/>
3. <https://www.popularmechanics.com/>
4. <https://web.archive.org/web/20210801183915/https://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/Docs/FY01RPT.doc>
5. <https://www.defense.gov/>
6. <https://home.army.mil/redstone/>
7. <https://www.amcom.army.mil/>
8. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHva1pldLIo>
9. <https://www.berryhillfh.com/obituary/ning-li?lud=4CF765EE88E7526FCBA619C30101F7E6>

2.8.30 Antigravity Chambers Exist (2023-08-21 11:11)

Many people seem to think NASA has secret training rooms in which gravity can be turned off. Aside from the long-running [1]Anti Gravity column in *Scientific American*, however, there is no such thing as antigravity.

Gravity is a force arising among any two masses in the universe. Our most familiar run-in with it is the attraction that pulls our bodies, our houses and everything else in our lives toward the planet Earth beneath us. Even in orbit, where astronauts do not feel the tug of gravity, it is nonetheless abundantly present. Gravity's draw is simply masked by the free-falling motion of a spacecraft as it circles the planet. Only way out in deep space, beyond the domain of any planets or stars, can you truly escape gravity.

As of yet, no technology exists to neutralize the pull of gravity. The best way to approximate the feeling of weightlessness on Earth is to ride onboard a plane flying in parabolic arcs that mimic the shape of Saint Louis's Gateway Arch. Such planes, nicknamed "[2]vomit comets" because of the queasiness they induce, allow passengers to float for a few moments while the plane is in free fall on the downward swing of the arc. Astronauts use this method to train for spaceflight; it also gave us scenes of a weightless Tom Hanks in the film *Apollo 13*. You can also experience moments of apparent weightlessness during the drops on roller coasters or Disney World's Tower of Terror ride, for example. "Both you and your rollercoaster carriage are falling at the same rate," says Damian Pope, a physicist at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Canada, "so your seat doesn't push against you and you don't feel any support. This mimics what you'd feel if, for some reason, you happened to find yourself in a rollercoaster carriage in deep space."

These examples illustrate how we normally experience gravity. During the rest of a roller coaster ride you feel the upward push of the seat on you. "A physicist would say that the seat was exerting a force on you—they'd call it a normal force," Pope says. "More generally, the feeling of having weight we experience in daily life is just the feeling of being supported by the ground, a rollercoaster seat etc., and these objects exerting 'normal forces' on us."

The lack of antigravity chambers is what makes space-based research valuable. Without a way to turn off gravity on Earth, scientists must

launch experiments into orbit to test what happens in weightlessness. The International Space Station, officially designed a U.S. National Laboratory, houses hundreds of projects investigating everything from the effects of weightlessness on viruses (which become more virulent) and crystals (which grow much larger) to human bodies (which suffer [3]bone density degradation and damaged eyesight). Scientists hope medicines developed in the unusual conditions of space can [4]help treat regular health issues on Earth.

If humans are to explore deep space in the future, we will need better ways of manipulating gravity than we have now—or at least better tools to fight the ill effects of weightlessness on the human body. In the 16 years since the International Space Station's first module was launched NASA and its partners have made strides in using specialized exercise equipment and nutrition to maintain astronauts' fitness. Yet these steps will not be enough to protect crews on space journeys lasting much longer than a year. A popular science fiction trope is the spinning spacecraft that creates artificial gravity via centripetal force, such as the one depicted in the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The rotation pulls everything toward the ship's outside wall, which becomes the floor. The logic behind this plan is sound, but to create gravity similar to that on Earth, such a spacecraft would have to be much larger than any spacefaring vehicle ever built. For now, we might as well enjoy the antigravity aspect of space travel, which is good for, among other things, some [5]very weird yo-yo tricks.

1. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/departments/antigravity/>
2. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-taste-of-weightlessness/>
3. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-does-sleeping-prolong/>
4. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/weightlessness-and-the-human-body/>
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uw51R44z3TQ>

2.8.31 Meet the Man Building an Anti-Gravity Device (2023-08-21 11:16)

When asked about the numerous failures that preceded his invention of the light bulb, Thomas Edison once famously joked that he hadn't failed over a hundred times but instead had simply found a hundred different ways how *not* to make a light bulb. Could the same thing be said of anti-gravity and the hunt to defy physical laws?

Although not expressly stated by Mark Sokol, the 33-year-old, wide-eyed, curly-haired founder of New Jersey-based [1]Falcon Space, (in Slavic languages, *Sokol* means *Falcon*), Edison's light bulb analogy could easily sum up his company's hands-on, trial and error approach when it comes to their wide array of very ambitious planned experiments.

The dividing lines between visionaries and madmen have historically proven to be thin. As Sokol pushes himself and his company headfirst into developing a 'Warp Drive Detector' and the world's first anti-gravity aircraft, it makes you wonder on what side of that line he dwells.

"I think [that] where science really went wrong was when Einstein got his Nobel Prize for dreaming up theory, as opposed to experimental results." Sokol told *The Debrief*, "[After that] I think the scientists sort of got addicted to sitting at home and coloring on white boards."

✖ Mark Sokol, Founder of Falcon Space. (Image: Sokol)

The Toyota Prius May Have Influenced the Creation of a 'Warp Drive Detector?'

Nearly ten years before his first gravity experiments, Sokol purchased a used Toyota Prius, only to learn that the already aging [2]battery pack would soon have to be rebuilt. Unfortunately, with the hybrid market still new, the equipment to do the job wasn't yet available. Undaunted, Sokol simply built his own tools, ultimately leading the then 23-year-old to start his own hybrid battery refurbishment business, a business he still owns and operates today.

"I built the equipment to refurbish the batteries myself because the equipment didn't exist," he said. Sokol is highly energetic, often speaking like a human machine gun, yet surprisingly articulate.

This mentally fast-paced, hands-on, problem-solving approach has translated over to Sokol's current research, including designing a device to detect the warping of space-time, or more simply, a 'Warp Drive Detector.'

"The [3]'Warp Drive Detector' was just something that was dreamed up between Jeremiah Popp

[a fellow anti-gravity experimenter] and me,” said Sokol. “The idea is to figure out if a warp field is being created, to see if something is changing the speed of light in the vicinity of an experiment.”

Sokol explained that his theoretical device isn’t being built to detect ultra-top secret man-made spaceships traveling above the speed of light, much less alien ones, but instead to help the Falcon Space team with their gravity-related experiments.

“We have a lot of experiments going on in the lab,” said Sokol. “A lot of experiments we’ve completed, and we realized we don’t have the proper instrumentation to realize if anything was actually happening.”

In short, if they had any hope of testing whether or not their gravity experiments were achieving [4]a warping of space-time as predicted by Albert Einstein, the duo realized that much like the tools to remake a Prius battery pack in 2011, they had to build a warp drive detector on their own.

✖ Mark Sokol, left, with his partner, Jeremiah Popp. (Image: Mark Sokol)

Building The Impossible

Rather than diving straight into the lab, a move Sokol admits is almost always their first impulse, he and Popp checked out the current technology used to measure reactions to gravity. Ultimately, they landed on a laser set up designed to spot gravity-induced changes in light, like the one[5] NASA’s Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) uses to detect gravitational waves in space. And although Sokol didn’t reveal the engineer’s name, he did indicate that he and Popp have consulted with one of the original designers of LIGO to make sure they were setting their experiments up correctly.

“Use a stable laser,” he said, explaining the theory behind their warp measurement tool. “It gets split into two beams. They bounce around the table, [then] come back to each other on the receiving end. You have the experiment affect one of the beams. If it affects it, the

interference pattern will change, and you will be able to measure very minute details in the change of light.”

✖ A laser in Falcon Space’s lab. Pew Pew. (Image: Mark Sokol)

Sokol said that once these lasers are mounted on his recently purchased, ultra-heavy duty, composite, dielectric testbed (one he described as “tough as concrete”), they will be able to use the device to test anything from mundane objects to a complex, gravity-altering experiment, all to see if there is a warping effect.

“We’re going to be using a laser that has an extremely stable frequency output, and we’re going to put the laser, battery-powered, inside the experiment, and that’s going to shine on to a detector that will see if there is any frequency change in the laser’s output.”

And what would that frequency change indicate?

“A Doppler Effect,” said Sokol. “If there’s a blue shift, we’ll know if something happened.” In effect, this tool “will sort of be like a compass to tell us where interesting things are happening.”

At this point in the discussion, Sokol made sure to point out that this is merely their first experimental design. Even if successful, he is not confident their results would indicate whether gravity is causing the detected warp or if the warping of space-time is something else altogether.

“There’s a bit of a misnomer about warp fields and all of that stuff,” said Sokol. “I know Einstein’s theory is that gravity is ‘warped space.’ We don’t really have any true proof of that, other than light bends around gravity. There’s no proof that space itself is warping, and therefore, that’s why the light is curving. It could be that the light

is curving because gravity is an electromagnetic effect, and that affects electromagnetism, which is light.”

With this theoretical distinction in mind, Sokol clarified his ‘Warp Drive Detector’ is more accurately just a ‘warp detector’ since it is housed in their lab and not in outer space where one assumes such a drive would be put to use.

“We don’t even know if warp drive really exists,” he said, “and I wouldn’t think that this conclusively proves warp drive. Even if we saw it bending, it only proves that whatever experiment I did bent light.”

Still, Sokol reiterated that if there is an actual warp of space/time occurring during their experiments, their custom-built testbed should find it. And, he says, that measuring capability will be particularly crucial when testing the concept Falcon Space was started on in the first place: Anti-Gravity.

The Quest to Defy Gravity

Now firmly on a mission to prove his ancient alien theory, and joined by a like-minded partner in Popp, Sokol dove headfirst into a field that he says is littered with frauds and misinformation: anti-gravity research. Fortunately, their laborious analysis of the scientific literature guided them to a set of [6] previously published, anti-gravity experiments named for the man who [7] first theorized the idea behind them back in 1981 when he worked for Boeing, then purportedly conducted tests in the 1990s, Frederick Alzofon.

✖ Dr. Frederick Alzofon (Image: Gravity Control)

“It’s a peer-reviewed paper that was written by a highly accredited scientist,” said Sokol about Alzofon’s heretofore [8] unproven work, “and it has a very salient explanation on how these craft operate. And everything about the craft really made sense through this theory.”

In 2018, Dr. Alzofon's son David[9] wrote a book about the [10]still-controversial theory wherein, according to Sokol, "he said that his father actually tried the experiment that he laid out in the paper in 1994, in the basement of some university." Unsurprisingly, given the unusual nature of this type of inquiry, Sokol also said that Alzofon "had to borrow equipment because nobody would touch this science with a 10-foot pole."

Nonetheless, Alzofon and his team performed the experiments anyway, and they had some rather eye-popping results.

"They set it all up, turned it on, and a sample lost like 80 % of its weight within 1 second," Sokol explained. However, these experiments didn't convince other scientists, and one engineer, David Prutchi, has [11]pointed out that the experiments were flawed and that Alzofon's results were "invalid."

Sokol is convinced that Alzofon was on to something, at least something he could try to verify in his lab, so he and Popp tried their own preliminary versions of the anti-gravity experiment. They claim they had some [12]promising results.

"One experiment showed 17.8 % weight loss, but that was still within the 'noise floor,' [or margin of error] for this type of experiment."

Hoping to improve upon that dubious yet still encouraging first try, Sokol said he plans to upgrade equipment, including a recently purchased Electro-power Magnetic Resonance generator that he says is like an MRI machine and one that can retail for as much as 60 thousand dollars. Using that newer, more powerful generator, he hopes to repeat their experiments with results "two to three times" above the noise floor.

When asked what happened to Alzofon's work after the incredible results purportedly achieved by those 1994 tests, Sokol claims that "all the investors and everyone got super excited, and they started fighting over who owns what in this company that never existed, and the whole thing fell apart."

Or, as Prutchi argues, "any physicist or engineer...would have immediately realized that the experimental data shows absolutely no effect on the gravitational pull experienced by the sample."

Is Anti-Gravity Possible?

To explain exactly how the anti-gravity experiment he is planning to try next actually works, as well as the theory behind it, Sokol once again made sure to point out that he is not a formally trained theoretical or experimental physicist and that all of this is just someone else's theory that he is simply trying to prove (or disprove) in a practical, hands-on way. He did, however, concede that he has his own guesses as to the possible underlying mechanisms.

"Well, the first question you should really ask is, why do we have inertial mass?" said Sokol, harkening back to the theoretical basis of Alzofon's original anti-gravity work. "Where does inertial mass come from? And if you ask any Ph.D. physicist this question, they'll get mad at you because they just spent six years in college, and they didn't get an answer to that question."

When asked to elaborate, Sokol offered his more mundane explanation of this inertial mass theory.

"When you take a baseball and throw it, you're actually energizing the spins of the sub-atomic particles," he said. "So, by moving an object through space-time, you are changing the spin of those subatomic particles in a way that energizes or slows down the momentum in one direction or another, and [according to his theory] that's where the force that we call inertia comes from."

If true, Sokol proposes that the mechanisms first suggested by Alzofon may indeed help him and his colleagues solve the anti-gravity riddle.

"According to Alzofon, all you've got to do is orient the subatomic particles," he said. "Take them from being in a state of disorganized chaos, and bring them all to spin on the same axis and plane, and then the entire craft along its axis and its plane will become weightless."

To explain the conventional understanding of the physics behind the Alzofon claims, *The De-brief* reached out to [13]Dr. Jason Cassibry, an associate professor in the [14]Department of

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and affiliated with the [15]Propulsion Research Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, who offered little support.

“The reason that perhaps most physicists may not be able to give an answer is that it requires a deep knowledge of the standard model of physics (particle physics), quantum mechanics, and nuclear chemistry,” said Cassibry, acknowledging at least part of Sokol’s premise. “These topics are probably not covered thoroughly in undergraduate courses, and may not be taught thoroughly in grad school other than at places that specialize in that subdiscipline.”

Nonetheless, Cassibry went on to explain the actual mechanics believed to be at work in the conventional theory, before reiterating that “there are probably only a handful of people in the world that might be able to walk through a discussion of how macroscopic forces manifest on a subatomic scale in a collection of complicated processes that appear to be a resistance to acceleration on a macro scale.”

Still, although Cassibry stipulated that he is an aerospace engineer without the formal physics training, and that “there is a kernel of truth in your source’s claim,” he says inertial mass is something that those properly trained physicists can confidently explain.

Screwing Around With Magnetic Fields and the World of Anti-Gravity

To run their own, updated version of the Alzofon experiment, Sokol explained that the team would place a test sample in a plastic, 3-D cage (which, according to a June email sent to *The Debrief*, will be printed using Falcon’s newly purchased, [16]state-of-the-art 3D printer), then use a microwave generator to bombard that sample, all while measuring it for any loss of mass or warping effect.

“Your microwave oven is 2.4 Gigahertz,” said Sokol. “We’re not going to be running it that high. We have equipment to run it in the C-band, in the 6.2 gigahertz. And also on the X-band, from 9 to 12 gigahertz. So we have a couple of different pieces of equipment to run it at

different frequencies.”

Sokol said that according to the literature, the most crucial component of this experiment is making sure that the generated magnetic field remains homogeneous throughout the sample.

“You don’t just want a tiny speck of the sample to be in tune, and everything else is out of tune,” he said. “You want most of the sample to be in tune so that your signal-to-noise ratio is higher.”

And once they run this experiment, how will they know if it worked?

“We’re going to put a piece of graphite in there that will get heated up by the microwaves, and we’ll look at it with an infrared camera and figure out at what point it is in resonance with the microwaves.”

If their experiment worked, then along with the reduction in mass, Sokol said that “you should see the actual microwave marks on the graphite. That’s what we’re hoping to see if this is all done correctly.”

Sokol did say that their experiment will only let them test the basic mechanism behind Alzofon, and not an actual craft. However, in an unnerving coincidence, Sokol said that in order to build his theoretical craft designed to operate as its own electromagnet, there is one particular design that works perfectly. “When you have an electromagnet, the field sort of pops out like a donut. If you want the homogenous field line, if you want to follow the field lines that are of equal strength, it would literally look like a flying saucer.”

Speaking of which...

And Then Came the UFOs.

Sokol’s entire project is highly theoretical, and more than once during our interviews, he proceeded down one particularly fringe, highly controversial path: UFOs.

✖ This

photo, from the featured document display, is from a report of a UFO sighting in Riverside, California on November 23, 1951. (Image: National Archives, Records of Headquarters U.S. Air Force [Air Staff])

“One interesting thing that kinda points in the Alzofon direction is, we’ve never seen a flying saucer do a barrel roll,” he said. “Go on YouTube, try to find videos of flying saucers. They do not do barrel rolls.”

When asked to elaborate, Sokol explained that they don’t use thrust to fly. “They don’t need much to move around because they are almost weightless. But to change their orientation, and the craft weighs, let say ten tons, they would need ten tons of acceleration, or the equivalent to move a ten-ton mass in order to shift its angle,” he theorized.

This, Sokol postulated, “could be why, when they do shift their angle, they do it very slowly, and then they shoot off along the axis, or along the plane, at insane speeds, because they’re weightless along that axis. Moving along its axis, all they need is a tiny amount of thrust. Frederick Alzofon said that you could get to the moon with a can of hairspray.”

Falling Down the Rabbit Hole

As the discussion got deeper and deeper, Sokol revealed that some of these anti-gravity theories are connected to [17]Alien Reproduction Vehicles, or ARVs, [18]described by Mark McCandlish, supposedly under development by [19]Lockheed Martin Skunk Works since the 1960s. A common conspiracy in many UFO circles, there is a belief that aliens crash-landed on Earth in the 1940s, and the US Government has been working hard to reverse engineer that technology ever since.

Sokol admits that part of his desire to test Alzofon’s theory has to do with his interactions with Alzofon’s son, David.

“I showed that [20](ARV blueprint) to David Alzofon, who said he’d showed it to his dad, and his response was, ‘Its creating dynamic nuclear orientation by spinning the disc,

which is made out of aluminum, and the coil on the outside is pulsing in order to create the same effect through a different mechanism.”

✖ The image Sokol showed to David Alzofon of a supposed ‘ARV.’ (Image: Mark McCandlish)

To clarify, Sokol explained how this would work.

“You have a disc of aluminum spinning around, and you have a strong magnetic field that turns on and off, basically an oscillating magnetic field.” Sokol went on to say that “by creating a dynamic nuclear orientation in the center, it will affect the surrounding objects at a subatomic level.”

The object, according to Sokol and Alzofon’s theory, weighs next to nothing. Add a small thrust device, a “can of hairspray” (as Alzofon suggests), and off you go.

Once again, making sure to confine the discussion to things he can actually test in his lab instead of what he described as a “whole host of unproven theories,” Sokol said his goal is to examine if such an idea is even possible. He has no intentions of building a flying saucer. Yet.

[21]



See Also

[22]

1476

Ancient Tablet Displays Pythagorean Theorem 1,000 Years Before Pythagoras was Even Born

The bizarre science (that may not actually be science) and blueprints from alleged flying saucers were an odd trip to take. However, in the anti-gravity science subculture, many dabble in UFO lore, if for no other reason than [23]witness accounts often describe these craft as having no obvious means of lift or propulsion. Both Fred and Dave Alzofon were UFO enthusiasts who took an interest in the subject. Anti-gravity research and UFOs are simply glued together and are very common bedfellows.

Things had admittedly become a little weird, but taken in context of Sokol's real world experimentation-based approach as opposed to formulas on a white board, the weirdness somehow seemed to make some sort of sense. And then there was more.

Have something to share about frontier science, anti-gravity, exotic propulsion, and those who do this research? The Debrief would love to hear from you. E-mail tips@thedebrief.org! We'd like to hear from you.

It All Began With An Alien God

Sokol describes himself as an autodidact (he's self-taught with no formal training in physics or engineering). Unlike many of his colleagues who came to study things like anti-gravity or warp drives through their love of science fiction or interest in UFOs, the committed trial-and-error experimenter credits his attraction to a personal

journey that started many decades ago.

“This started as a hobby that came out of my research into religion, namely Judaism,” Sokol says. “After diving extremely deep into Judaism, spending 20+ years of my life studying just Judaism, I discovered that it was all alien worship.”

Before conducting his first experiment, it was during these many years of orthodox education that he studied the faith’s religious texts through and through, including the Talmud and Mishnah in their Aramaic form. And, he says, after reading them closely, “a couple of things stuck out to me.”

In particular, Sokol noted how in the original Hebrew texts, the description of Moses at Mount Sinai reads as more of a historical account than a literal one. “There is the supposed conversation between Moses and this God, named Jehovah, and in the original Torah, it reads like a historical document,” said Sokol. “Like this event really happened.”

After his personal revelation, he said, he just started connecting dots.

“If this really happened, it couldn’t be an all-powerful, infinite being because it would include the entire universe. God wouldn’t be on the mountain talking to Moses. He would *be* the mountain and *be* Moses. But the Torah doesn’t say he’s infinite. That was all added by Rabbi’s years later.”

So, who or what was perched at the top of Mount Sinai speaking to Moses?

“In the Torah, it was a guy named Jehovah,” said Sokol. “There was also a fire and cloud they would follow through the desert. And [from ancient textual descriptions] Jehovah’s mothership looked like a classic, cigar-shaped UFO.” When pressed further, Sokol was direct. “I would say that the god of the Old Testament, Jehovah, is an extraterrestrial.”

He was quick to point out that the popular, alternative history book [24]Chariots of the Gods and the TV series[25] Ancient Aliens have made similar observations, including the possibility of UFOs being featured in the Old Testament. But for Sokol personally, this new understanding from his own readings ultimately set him on his path to Falcon Space. That, and a few friendly nudges from those close to him.

"I started getting into anti-gravity research from people pushing me to prove to them this alien theory about Judaism," Sokol said. "And the only way to do that is to do experiments. Whenever I started sharing this theory with friends of mine, the conversation always led back to the same place: 'show me the technology.'"

This Anti-Gravity Stuff Can't Be Real...Can It?

For Sokol, Popp, and the others assisting in the still-modest Falcon Space venture (the founder says they only recently added an apartment for out of town guests like Popp and others so they wouldn't continue to sleep inside the lab), there are many tools left to build and many tests to run before reaching their ultimate goal of constructing an actual, bonafide, anti-gravity craft.

But, he said, there are steps within this process where he believes the proof needed to launch them toward that ultimate goal will appear.

"The next benchmark moment would be an experiment that shows weight loss that is two or three times the noise floor."

When asked what barriers remain to do that experiment right now, he repeated his previous limitation on more rapid progress; "Competent engineers." When pushed further, Sokol elaborated. "The main restraint is that we don't have any competent engineers who are willing to come and work with us. We are looking for somebody local who can help us here in the lab."

Surprisingly, especially for such a small start-up business that Sokol himself described as beginning a few years ago with dumpster diving for used equipment, when asked about any financial constraints to furthering their mission (constraints that almost always hamstringing these more theoretical ventures), he was similarly blunt.

"Funding is not really a problem anymore," he said.

There was a pause. Were people actually willing to invest in this? When once again asked to elaborate, Sokol was more forthcoming. "There was always a chicken or the egg problem. Everyone is offering you money once you have a proof of concept, but I convinced enough rich people to

say, 'Hey, you're not going to get a proof of concept unless we're funded properly. Now people came through, and we got that going.'

Come again?

Sokol clarified that he isn't presently funded at the levels needed to build a working anti-gravity craft. Once he and his cohorts can show more substantial, reproducible results with their current funding, that will not be a problem.

"If we find a sweet spot where the sample loses mass, as predicted by the theory that it should, we've actually got several billionaires who have offered tons of money to take this on," said Sokol. "We've had lots of people offer lots of money to take this to the next stage, which would be building a full-sized craft."

When pressed about who these potentially famous, would-be financiers might be, Sokol wasn't willing to give up any names. However, any hopes of would-be celebrity rocketeers like Sir Richard Branson, Jeff Bezos, or Elon Musk taking a secret plunge into this controversial field were quickly dashed by his subsequent response.

"I don't think you've ever heard of any of them."

When asked what exactly Falcon Space will need to do to entice that large-scale funding, Sokol reiterated that achieving successful test results in his lab that are "at least two to three times above the noise floor" will make everything else fall into place. "It all depends first on having a working experiment before you go and dump, you know, a hundred million dollars into the R & D of building an actual craft based on this theory," he said.

But if that experimental result is actually achieved?

"If everything came together as quickly as possible, we might have a prototype in a year or two," said Sokol. "Not the proof of concept stuff. That can be done in a month. I'm talking [about] an actual craft, could probably be built within a year or two."

Nothing Is Too Far Out

At the end of both interviews with *The Debrief*, Sokol reiterated that his primary desire is to add competent people in his local area willing to work on this type of anti-gravity and scientific research, even offering a personal message to pass along.

“For anyone that’s interested in helping us, we don’t care about your degree or all of that stuff. We actually prefer people who figure stuff out on their own. That is the mindset that leads to the biggest innovations. People who get indoctrinated in colleges tend to get stuck in a box.”

It undoubtedly all sounds pretty far out to say the least, and based on the mainstream scientific literature along with our own experts casting nothing but doubts on Alzofon’s theories, it feels like Sokol and his cohorts will almost surely end up like Thomas Edison, finding nothing but a hundred different ways how *not* to make an anti-gravity drive. Chasing the impossible, especially something like anti-gravity, can drive you insane. However, something is compelling about the underdog. Sokol is undaunted, and his mad dash towards anti-gravity speaks to some complicated aspect of the human spirit and our desire to forge our names and ideas into history.

In the end, Sokol emphasized that when considering the idea of such a monumental breakthrough being discovered using his type of hands-on, unbiased methodology, especially in a field he noted more than once is rife with “garbage science,” his team’s approach is precisely the way many discoveries are made. Maybe he’s right, and like that other famous trial-and-error experimenter Thomas Edison he does ultimately stumble on the one method that works. Or perhaps over 100 years of conventional physics is correct, and he is lost in his own dream to achieve what Alzofon could not.

Unsurprisingly, Sokol doesn’t care, and firmly believes in his approach, a trait common to both visionaries and madmen alike.

“[There is a] reason this type of research isn’t going on in universities,” concluded Sokol. “They’re afraid of their career, shaking the status quo, and we all know that doesn’t get us anywhere. It is the fringes of science that push the frontier. For me, no idea is too far out to at least think about.”

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2.8.32 Anti-Gravity Treadmills (2023-08-21 11:21)

Logging the

miles is o

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of the best things you can do for your body and mind. However, despite our best efforts running injuries are still very common!

In fact, [1] research

has reported that the majority of runners

experience at least one injury in a one-year period. You may develop a stress fracture while trying to improve your [2] 5K time

or sprain your ankle during a trail run.

Fortunately, there are many tools that can help devout runners who want to recover faster without losing fitness. One of these is a device known as an anti-gravity treadmill

[3] The National Agency of Space

has reported that antigravity treadmills can help injured college and elite athletes, military members, seniors, and those coming out from surgery.

Even the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has [4] cleared this machine to be used as

a

medical device in rehabilitation back in 2008.

So, the all-important question: Do anti-gravity treadmills really work? Any research that backs up the claims?

In this article, we'll dive into what exactly is an anti

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gravity treadmill, the history behind it as well as

some of the research

that looked into its

effectiveness

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The History Of Anti-Gravity Treadmills

For over 50 years, NASA has been sending astronauts into space.

As missions got more complicated and technology advanced, astronauts were spending more time in orbit. In fact, depending on the mission, the average astronaut could dwell between three to six months in space.

Devoid of the literal pull of earth's gravity, the muscles and bones of these brave space pioneers start to atrophy.

To counteract this loss in muscle and bone strength, astronauts must engage in regular exercise.

Why is it important? Without

physical exercise, their bodies, sooner than later, will start losing both muscle and bone density.

This leads to a decrease in size and strength and can compromise the astronauts' ability to perform tasks while in space because it makes them weak.

And, God forbid, in case of emergency, they would need to be in excellent shape to get out of the danger as fast as possible.

What's more, o

nce

the astronauts are back on earth, weakened muscles and bones would make any form of weight-bearing challenging, even painful.

For these reasons, NASA (as well as other space agencies) have worked hard over the years to devise plans and devices to help astronauts stay in good shape.

Then in the 1990s, Dr. Robert Whalen, a biomechanics researcher at the NASA Ames Research Center, was tasked to invent a means for the astronauts to exercise in the space station.

Among the tools he invented was a pressurized bubble that used air pressure to h

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the astronauts down.

Thus, the concept of anti-gravity treadmills was born.

The process was simple. The original design placed the lower body of the astronauts in an airtight chamber where air pressure was increased, pushing them down and simulating gravity in the process

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This, in turn, increased the astronaut's apparent weight, allowing them to exercise at their normal earth weight.

This was a big step. With the previous devices

, the astronauts could only train at roughly 60 percent of their body weight on earth.

But now, thanks to the new device, the astronauts could simulate Earth-like conditions but in space.

However, due to funding limits, NASA decided to pursue some of Robert's other ideas, and his "air-pressure" controlled treadmill never really caught on.

Then around 2005, Sean Whalen, Whalen's son, decided to revive his father's experimental treadmill. Instead of adding gravity, Sean wanted to make it possible to reduce gravity on earth.

Then, by flipping the air pump, thus, creating the opposite gravity effect, Sean designed the initial prototype of the anti-gravity treadmill as we know it today.

In the same year, the Whalen prototype was licensed to a company called AlterG, which seems to have come up with the term "anti-gravity treadmill." For a nice image of this in action check out the AlterG treadmill featured [5]here on nasa.gov

So What's An Anti-Gravity Treadmill All about?

It might sound like a contraption from a science-fiction movie, but an anti-gravity treadmill is just a piece of highly specialized equipment primarily used in physiotherapy practice.

The machine is designed for people to exercise with reduced load on their joints and muscles. It works by employing air pressure to make the body "weigh less", counteracting gravitational forces.

This sensation is created by a system of pulleys and motors that can negate the weight of the user when it presses against

the belt (more on this later).

The user can choose how high or low they want to go, and the springs will provide the feeling of walking/running on air pressure. This, in turn, allows the user to walk or run at 100 % to 20 % of their body weight.

Since antigravity treadmills are more technical than the typical treadmill, expect an in-depth console.

You can keep track of strike force, cadence, stance time, stride-length symmetry, as well as other advanced stats and data relating to the antigravity effect.

The Technology Behind The Machine

The reason anti-gravity treadmills can “manipulate” gravity comes down to the innovative “[6] Differential Air Pressure”

(DAP) technology which counteracts gravitational forces.

Anti-gravity treadmills feature a bubble that inflates with air, then surrounds the user’s lower body. This gently lifts them off the treadmill which reduces pressure on the lower body.

So, for example, if you weigh 180 pounds and use the anti-gravity treadmill at 50 percent setting, you can walk/run as if you only weigh 90 pounds.

Want to feel what it’s like to lose 30 pounds? Use the 84 percent setting to train at 150 pounds.

The Actual Session

To use the machine, you'll need to wear special neoprene shorts that have a skirt around the waist. Next, to create the vacuum, you'll get zipped into an airtight, pressurized, bubble suspended over the machine's surface.

Once the treadmill is turned on, the casing starts to gradually fill with air, which creates a waist-high bubble around the machine and the user's legs.

Next, the treadmill measures your weight and starts to calibrate the corresponding pressure for your body. The higher the pressure, the higher you can be lifted.

By adjusting the pressure inside of the bubble, you can manipulate your weight, reducing it by as much as 80 per cent in precise one per cent increments.

As you start to walk, your legs begin to feel lighter and experience less pressure on your joints. In fact, walking/running may feel virtually weightless, even with increased speed and incline.

From there, the treadmill works just like any other. You can keep a pace of up to 15 miles per hour, adjust the incline as well as do intervals. You can also perform weight-bearing exercises in the reduced gravity setting.

Now let's look at some of the real-life applications of this amazing machine.

Post-Surgery Applications

Regardless of age or fitness level,

post-

surgery

patients

, especially orthopaedic procedures, require a long healing period in which various parts of the body

recover

at various rates before being able to locomote with ease and confidence.

For instance, when recovering from an [7] ACL

surgery, expect to have altered walking mechanics for at least a month.

Here's the good news.

Hopping on an anti-gravity treadmill during the

recovery period can help patients walk farther with less stress on the lower body joints and muscles.

This, over

time, helps improve their neuromuscular control as well as keep them

away from a completely sedentary lifestyle

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And of course, don't take my word for it. Over the past few years, there are [8] many studies that examined the usefulness of anti-gravity treadmills.

One example is [9] research

that examined the impact of antigravity treadmill on balance during post-surgery knee rehabilitation.

Forty-nine

patients who had knee surgery participated in the experiment.

At week one post-surgery, each patient was assessed for a single leg stance on the affected knee on a floor.

Then, they were either placed into an AlterG group or a control group.

The AlterG group

performed balance exercises on an antigravity treadmill with the resistance adjusted to a minimal or pain-free level once a day for five days a week.

The other group performed their balance exercises on the floor in the same manner. All subjects were assessed again at least two post-operatively.

The conclusion?

One week after

surgery

1488

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the duration of the single-leg stance was about 40 seconds and 20 seconds for the AlterG group and the control group, respectively,

By week two, the AlterG group improved to 50 seconds while the control group jumped to 35 seconds.

In other words, anti-gravity treadmills can be useful for post-surgery patients who want to get back on their feet as soon as possible. This is especially the case for those who experienced excruciating pain during weight-bearing following a knee operation.

Stay In Shape While Recovering

Whether you're recovering from knee surgery or have sprained your ankle, you'll want to stay in shape, especially when you're training for a specific race

.

Say you're a [10] marathon runner recovering from a [11] stress fracture . You still have a full range of motion, are willing to run but struggling to log the miles due to pain.

Sure, you could choose to cross-train, but when it comes down to it, logging the miles is what you need to stay on track.

Hopping on an anti-gravity treadmill may help keep you going without any adverse side effects, providing you're under the guidance of a trained health professional.

In fact, many rehab athletes find they can return faster to training with the AlterG Anti-Gravity Treadmill.

Again, don't take my word for it. [12] Research has shown that the AlterG technology helps reduce swelling, prevent muscle atrophy, and improve patient outcome

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The Main Conditions

Many conditions afflicting the lower limbs can be improved by exercising on the anti-gravity treadmill. These include

- Achilles tendinitis
 - Foot pain
 - Low back pain
 - Osteoporosis
 - Plantar fasciitis
 - Reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD)
 - Rheumatoid arthritis
 - Shin splints
 - Balance and proprioceptive problems
- 1490

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Obesity

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Osteoarthritis

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Spine fusions

- [13] Stress fractures

-

Total knee or hip arthroplasty

What's more, t

he device can also be used to support balance and strength training in the [14] elderly and enhance coordination and motor ability in patients with neurological conditions or disorders such as [15] Parkinson's disease

.

The Downsides

I can go on and on about the benefits of anti-gravity treadmills, but, just like any other tool, the machine isn't without downsides. Here are a few.

The Cost

A

nti-gravity treadmills

aren

't

your standard residential or even gym treadmills.

Costing around \$35,000 to \$75,000,

they're

some of the most expensive training machines on the market.

Anti-gravity treadmills are usually found in university sports facilities and physical therapy offices.

You can rent it for one session—usually costing 50 \$ to 80 \$ per hour.

It Makes Training Easier (which can be negative if you want a good training effect)

Thanks to the altered gravity, training on an antigravity treadmill is easier than on a standard one, [16] research shows.

Since the majority of the metabolic cost of running stems from absorbing impact and resisting gravity to create forward propulsion, it shouldn't be surprising that lowering apparent body weight while keeping the same running pace will reduce the energetic cost of running.

In fact, the research has shown that the metabolic cost drastically decreases with an increased level of support.

The more you unload your body weight, the easier the exercise gets.

So is there anything you can do to mitigate this?

Research has pointed out two things: support level and incline.

In an [17] experiment

, scientists examined the physiological adaptations triggered by an 8-week training plan on

an

anti

-

gravity

treadmill at three different levels of body weight support of 50 percent, 75 percent, and 100 percent in healthy participants.

The researchers

reported that training at 50 percent body weight resulted in a slight reduction of aerobic capacity

in contrast to training at 100 percent bodyweight.

Whereas training at 75 percent body weight didn't trigger any drastic change.

Therefore, i

f keeping your gains is your goal—and not recovery—train at least 75 percent or more of your body weight at moderate intensity.

The next thing you need to do

is simply increase the incline.

In fact, [18] research

has found that elite runners at high speed can reach their [19] VO2 max

with reduced bodyweight by simply

upping

the incline

.

Conclusion

If you're dealing with injuries, want to

explore more training options, or just want to train in a bubble (no pun intended), you should give anti-gravity treadmills a try.

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4338213/>

2. <https://www.runnersblueprint.com/average-5k-times/>

3. https://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/home/tech_life_alterg.html

4. <https://fda.report/GUDID/00850022788024>

5. <https://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/40-years-of-nasa-spinoff/anti-gravity-treadmill>

6. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334638535_The_anti-gravity_treadmill_its_application_and_considerations_in_sports_performance_injury_rehabilitation_and

7. <https://www.running-physio.com/acl/>

8. https://files.btl.net.com/product-document/e9a2af8f-38e7-4e98-a82b-0e6d1dc23e39/AlterG_Clinical_Summary_e9a2af8f-38e7-4e98-a82b-0e6d1dc23e39_original.pdf

9. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327154051_The_effect_of_anti-gravity_treadmill_on_balance_in_acute_phase_of_post-operative_knee_rehabilitation

10. <https://www.runnersblueprint.com/couch-to-marathon/>

11. <https://www.running-physio.com/stress-fracture-vid/>

12. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353740187_Anti-gravity_treadmill_rehabilitation_improves_gait_and_muscle_atrophy_in_patients_with_surgically_treated_an

13. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/230743005_Re_Use_of_an_Antigravity_Treadmill_for_Rehabilitation

_of_a_Pelvic_Stress_Fracture_REPLY

14. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260760000_Anti-gravity_training_improves_walking_capacity_and_p](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260760000_Anti-gravity_training_improves_walking_capacity_and_postural_balance_in_patients_with_muscular_dystrophy)
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 15. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7602654/>
 16. <https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ijesab/vol2/iss10/73/>
 17. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8439686/>
 18. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4424462/>
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2.8.33 What I Saw in the Debate (2023-08-26 22:50)

My opinion is just my opinion, no better or worse than anybody else's. Facts are different; they can't (shouldn't) be denied—though Leftists do it all the time—but opinions are just that. The following is my opinion of what I saw in the Republican debate this past Wednesday night. It was the first time I really had a chance to hear some of the candidates. Here are some observations (my opinions only) about each.

First, any of those people would be better than Joe Biden or any Democrat. Any of them. Now to the candidates in no particular order.

1. Vivek Ramaswamy. He was the most often attacked, mainly because he was most on the offensive and was the most decisive in his answers. Politicians hate absolutes. No squirming room. Vivek is "too young and inexperienced." No, he's not, except he doesn't always use wisdom. His "I'm the only person here not bought and paid for" comment was just dumb. It may be accurate, but it shouldn't have been said. He had a good performance.

2. Asa Hutchinson. His J6 "insurrection" comment lost him any chance of winning the nomination, not that he had any to begin with. His record as governor seems primarily good, and he made that point. He was actually fairly impressive, but he won't win.

3. Doug Burgum. No significant errors that I could see, but he is too unknown to have much chance. All his answers seemed solid. He has a long way to go to get anywhere, though.

4. Ron DeSantis. His answers weren't always with "yes" or "no" clarity, and he often sounded like a politician. But then, he is one. The Fox interrupter accused him (I didn't get his name, he was a jerk) a couple of times of not answering the question asked when I clearly heard an answer. I still don't know, for sure, what he will do with Ukraine other than protect America's southern border. But maybe he doesn't know yet, either. Will he authorize more money for Ukraine? I'm not sure. But his performance was solid, and he didn't get into any of the screaming matches the others did. I thought overall, he did a good job and was steady and solid.

5. Mike Pence. I admire his faith, but he's just not a very likable man to me. Sometimes he didn't know when to shut up. He had some excellent ideas, as did all of them, but appeared a bit uppity and arrogant. He did what he thought his job was on January 6, 2021, and even if you disagree with his actions, you can't fault a man for doing what he thinks is right. We all do that. He's weak, though, and he isn't going to win the nomination.

6. Nikki Haley.
I thought she was way too excitable, especially on the Ukraine issue. Her stance there wholly turned me off. Yes, Putin is a thug and a murderer. But so is Zelensky, and nobody has ever explained, to my satisfaction, why we should be supporting one thug over another in a war that has been going on, off and on, for generations. I get so tired of the "we can do both" argument, i.e., protect our border and be the "leader" of the free world by, in effect, getting involved in other people's wars and wasting our money whenever politicians want to. Yes, we can do that, but sticking our noses into other people's business usually isn't a good idea, either personally or as a nation. I've also never bought the "if we allow Putin to take Ukraine, that will give China a green light to attack Taiwan" argument. No, it won't if we make

it very clear to China that we won't tolerate it. I think Vivek was the best here. We are driving Russia into the hands of China rather than trying to build a friendship with them. Sometimes we must make friends with monsters; it's called "realpolitik." Vivek, more than once, indicated that China is our biggest threat, and he is absolutely right on the money with that one. And yet, he is the one who is "inexperienced" in foreign affairs. Maybe so, but that doesn't mean he is totally stupid. He is also the only one I heard who said "Climate change is a hoax." Haley said it wasn't, she is wrong, and I think she lost any chance she had at the nomination with that, her Ukraine policy, and being way too flighty at times.

7. Tim Scott. He didn't talk as much, but what he said was good. He didn't stand out above the others, so he still has little chance to be the nominee. He probably didn't gain, or lose, much support with this debate. His agreement, a few weeks ago, with Kamala Harris about DeSantis and slavery hasn't been forgotten (by me) and he might come back to bite him on the tailbone someday. Tim seems to be a nice guy but not a President.

8. Chris Christie. I thought he was actually pretty likable and, from what he said, had a decent record as governor of New Jersey (I'm no expert on that, maybe some of you New Jersey folks know better). But he absolutely hates Donald Trump, and that appears to be the focal point of his campaign. You don't hate the (current) most popular Republican and get very far with the masses who are going to choose the nominee. He would be better than Biden. But dying in your sleep at night is better than dying of a long, protracted, painful battle with cancer.

So that's what I saw. I'm sure some of you saw some completely different things. We have nine candidates (at the moment). Let's see if this debate helped or hurt any of them significantly. There is still a long road ahead.

2.8.34 The Biden Clan's Con Is Coming To An End (2023-08-26 22:56)

Despite years of Biden family and media disinformation, we are finally learning that President Joe Biden really did fire Ukrainian prosecutor Viktor Shokin for looking into state corruption

involving the oil company Burisma and Hunter Biden – and ultimately Joe Biden himself.

As vice president, Biden, in his own words, bragged that he had threatened to cancel the deliverance of American foreign aid to Ukraine unless Shokin was dismissed.

So what is Congress to do now – un-impeach and exonerate an innocent impeached Donald Trump, and instead impeach a guilty Biden for essentially the same allegations?

After all, the Left redefined the impeachment bar in 2019 as leveraging foreign aid to Ukraine to benefit one's political career.

And that is exactly what Joe Biden did to ensure his son could continue to raise millions for the Biden family with foreign governments while being shielded from political consequences.

An impeached Trump also was accused of using the power of government to go after his likely 2020 presidential rival by suggesting that Joe Biden and his family were corrupt and should be investigated by Ukrainian officials for fraud and bribery.

Despite Joe Biden's denials, Trump was right: there was plenty of evidence to link Ukrainian unwarranted payoffs going into Biden family coffers.

So Trump in 2019 had good reasons to ensure that none of the Bidens were still burrowed deeply into the Ukrainian payoff machine.

In contrast, Biden had far less grounds to unleash the full powers of government against his probable 2024 rival, ex-president Trump.

Special Prosecutor Jack Smith is not charging Trump with bribery of the Biden sort. He does not allege that Trump gave particular foreign policy preferences to those foreigners who paid his family for such services.

Instead, Smith argues that Trump unlawfully took out classified presidential papers –although Joe Biden did nearly the same.

Biden

kept quiet about his vast removal of classified documents for over a decade. Not until Trump was being investigated did Biden suddenly notify the government of his illegal removals.

In contrast, a combative and boisterous Trump fought openly and constantly with federal archivists over which of his papers at his Mar-a-Lago estate were truly classified.

Prosecutorial leaks floated all sorts of unproven nefarious agendas that had prompted Trump's disputes over his presidential papers.

But no one to this day has seriously asked why Senator and then Vice President Biden secretly and weirdly removed and kept such sensitive material for years.

Recent reports allege that Hunter Biden may have been treated with kid gloves by prosecutors, partly because Hunter's lawyers had threatened otherwise to call Joe Biden to the stand as a favorable witness.

Government prosecutors under pressure from the White House apparently balked at the nightmare of a befuddled president of the United States testifying under oath about the supposed innocence of the very guilty Hunter Biden.

In truth, the former drug addict Hunter has played many strange games with his family.

In his laptop communications, Hunter whined that no one in the family appreciated his hard work at family gifting.

He sounded petulant that his father forced him to fork over half his income to the Joe and Jill Biden household.

At

a time of universal scrutiny of Hunter, the last thing any sane first son might do would be to hawk his own childish paintings at exorbitant prices to those wishing to buy influence with his father, the president.

In effect, Hunter was almost daring the White House to stop his blatant grifting artistry.

Instead, the Bidens moved Hunter into the White House to keep him under closer watch.

Hunter

is still out of control. He could take the family down with him unless President Biden continues to shield him from prosecution.

Ironically, the double standard Biden and the media used to hound Trump has only raised new questions of fairness.

Why had the Biden family – with its far greater legal exposure – never faced such serial indictments?

A Republican House of Representatives had ended prior Democratic protection given to the Bidens.

And the Ukraine war has again turned attention to the Biden-Burisma connection and Hunter's shaking down of Ukrainian officials.

Finally, Joe Biden can no longer work a full day. He mutters. He stumbles. He serially lies.

He

hijacks solemn occasions commemorating national tragedies by trying to one-up the grieving with his own self-absorbed stories – most of them irrelevant and narcissistic half-truths.

If a cognitively and criminally challenged Biden cannot finish his term, we will finally learn the full story of 15 years of Biden family corruption.

The Bidens will lose the only impediment – Joe Biden's political machinations – left in the way of an honest, full-blown felony investigation into what is likely the most corrupt presidential family in American history.

2.8.35 One State Can Restrict the Sale of Abortion Pills, Court Rules (2023-08-26 23:13)

According to ABC News, U.S. District Court Judge Robert C. Chambers ruled that a restrictive law on abortion signed by GOP Gov. Jim Justice in September 2022 takes precedence over approvals on mifepristone from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

“The Supreme Court has made it clear that regulating abortion is a matter of health and safety upon which States may appropriately exercise their police power,” Chambers reportedly wrote in his decision.

West Virginia has a track record of standing up for unborn life. Townhall [1]covered how Justice previously stated that he would sign pro-life measures that made it to his desk.

“I said from the beginning that if WV legislators brought me a bill that protected life and included reasonable and logical exceptions I would sign it, and that’s what I did today,” Justice said in 2022. “That’s what I did today.”

Today I signed HB 302 - a bill that protects life.

I said from the beginning that if WV legislators brought me a bill that protected life and included reasonable and logical exceptions I would sign it, and that’s what I did today.

Read the bill ↓[2]<https://t.co/G7i9DTirSN> — Governor Jim Justice (@WVGovernor)
[3]September 16, 2022

Previously, West Virginia had enacted the “[4]Unborn Child with Down Syndrome Protection and Education Act (S.B. 468),” which prohibits discriminatory abortions performed because the baby has a disability.

“West Virginia takes a bold step forward today in the fight against eugenic discrimination in America,” SBA Pro-Life’s Dannenfelser said in a statement about the law. “Research shows 99 percent of people with Down syndrome lead happy lives, yet instead of being cherished and included, far too often they are targeted for destruction in the womb where they are most vulnerable.”

And, in 2018, West Virginia amended its constitution to protect the unborn. In 2020, Justice signed a bill into law protecting Americans born alive after an attempted abortion.

"This is an absolute no-brainer as far as I'm concerned," Justice [5]said of the Born-Alive law. "I've said for a long time, even back before I took office as Governor, that I would support measures like this because every human life – born or unborn is precious and truly a gift from God."

1. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/madelineleesman/2023/06/24/dobbs-anniversary-piece-n2624091>
2. <https://t.co/G7i9DTirSN>
3. https://twitter.com/WVGovernor/status/1570816789952577537?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
4. <http://link.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com/ls/click?upn=JWas9RdPX-2Fr-2BTPIsd3jWHBxW0lqqu3D03LnVs0s1DJlyLHvC7rp0d-2Bjbk0NhuQDTa3S-2FJAY1h23HI7AdBVoaY-2BouUWbEld1UM>
5. <https://governor.wv.gov/News/press-releases/2020/Pages/Gov.-Justice-signs-Born-Alive-Abortion-Survivors-Protection-Act.aspx>

2.8.36 Kyle Rittenhouse Is Being Sued Again and the Lawyer Is Making Insane Claims (2023-08-26 23:17)

Kyle Rittenhouse revealed on Friday, the third anniversary of the incident during the BLM riots in Kenosha that made him famous, he is been sued again, this time by a firm representing the estate of Joesph Rosenbaum.

Texas Scorecard reports those also being sued by Rosenbaum's estate are Kenosha officials, different Sheriff's departments, the City of Kenosha, the City of West Allis, and several counties for "compensatory and punitive damages" for the "wrongful death" of Rosenbaum. They are requesting a jury trial for conspiracy to deprive constitutional rights, conspiracy to obstruct justice based on invidious discrimination, and First Amendment retaliation.

The suit claims "Rosenbaum was among many who protested peacefully..." and " Rittenhouse fired his assault rifle indiscriminately multiple times at citizens on the street."

"I'm being sued again for defending my life," Rittenhouse posted with a link to the story.

I'm being sued again for defending my life. [1]<https://t.co/6CrN40Y6tB> — Kyle Rittenhouse (@ThisIsKyleR) [2]August 25, 2023

"These

lawsuits are making it harder and harder for me to move on with my life," Rittenhouse told Texas Scorecard. "It is extremely difficult to go outside without fear of being harassed or assaulted because of the lies spread in these lawsuits. No one should have to continue to defend the fact that they acted in self defense."

Rosenbaum was the first person shot by Rittenhouse in self-defense. Rosenbaum, a previously convicted pedophile, was shown during the 2021 criminal trial to have been a rioter the night of the shooting, threatening Rittenhouse and others who had firearms to prevent further looting and destruction of property. Rittenhouse was found not guilty on all charges, including murder, at the end of the trial. Evidence presented at the 2021 trial have already proven the aforementioned claims by the firm representing Rosenbaum's estate to be false.

Now

that it is confirmed Joseph Rosenbaum was one of the people shot and killed by alleged gunman Kyle Rittenhouse in Kenosha, I filmed him earlier in the night taunting the armed civilians, saying, "Shoot me, n***a." [3]pic.twitter.com/Nn2encm78Y — Julio Rosas (@Julio_Rosas11) [4]August 27, 2020

1. <https://t.co/6CrN40Y6tB>

2. https://twitter.com/ThisIsKyleR/status/1695206874344476714?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

3. <https://t.co/Nn2encm78Y>

4. https://twitter.com/Julio_Rosas11/status/1298857915202314240?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

2.8.37 The Ravenous Wolves of Harvard (2023-08-27 01:20)

I enjoy studying the Reformation and its tremendous influence on Western civilization and the founding of America. So when I discovered an organization called The Reformation Project, I was organically intrigued. Their Statement of Faith looks mainstream enough. Described as “a Bible-based, Christian organization,” they espouse beliefs in the triune God, the supremacy of God as the creator, and Jesus Christ as the son of God.

But something caught my eye on a significant point. The Reformation Project declares, “We believe in The inspiration of the Bible, the Word of God.” Many Christians, myself included, believe scripture is God’s inspired and inerrant word. But being inspired by the Bible is different from believing God inspires it. To what does the Bible inspire The Reformation Project?

The organization is the brainchild of Matthew Vines, who was catapulted into the establishment media in 2012 when the New York Times wrote a glowing feature about him speaking in a Manhattan church and telling the Times, “It is simply a fact that the Bible does not discuss or condemn loving, gay relationships.” Neither the King James Bible, the Geneva Bible, nor my increasingly dog-eared Reformation Study Bible discuss “loving, gay relationships.” All three, however, do address the behavior that defines such relationships.

A perusal of The Reformation Project’s Brief Biblical Case for LGBTQ Inclusion reveals some extraordinary arguments. The authorship of this document is uncertain, but it reflects a degree of rhetorical adroitness expected of one who studied philosophy at Harvard, which Vines did for two years before leaving in 2010.

This treatise takes a creative approach to rationalizing a “biblical case” for promoting LGBTQ ideology. One rationale is “the inclusion of Gentiles in the church.” Another is “the New Testament’s trajectory toward greater inclusion of eunuchs.” The author further explains that Pentateuchal proscriptions of LGBTQ behavior don’t apply to Christians because “male same-sex relations reflect culturally-bound concerns about patriarchal gender roles,” that were prevalent during the time of Moses.

Vines may have left Harvard to pursue full-time study of the Bible. Still, he seems to disregard the Apostle Paul’s first epistle to the Corinthians, which reads, “men who practice homosexuality,” or commit other sins, will not inherit the kingdom of God. Vines also dismisses the first chapter of Paul’s letter to the Romans, where Paul delineates a number of “dishonorable passions,” which include, among others, “men (who) likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another.”

We see the same sentiment in the first letter to Timothy, whom Paul reminded that the law of God is laid down “for the lawless and disobedient,” including “men who practice homosexuality” and other sins. None of these New Testament passages, nor any of the Old Testament prohibitions of LGBTQ behavior, are given much credence in the works promoted by this “Bible-based” organization.

The Reformation Project argues that “Non-affirming beliefs about same-sex relationships and transgender people contribute to serious harm in LGBTQ people’s lives,” and there may be a grain of truth in that. If I defined myself by behavior that scripture tells me is wrong, I, too, would feel very bad when others notice and counsel me against it. But we don’t soothe hurt feelings by rewriting the Bible.

Individual guilt or shame over behavior that the Bible explicitly and repeatedly defines as sinful doesn't seem like a very sound basis for reversing millennia of Christian doctrine. But The Reformation Project has a response to that too, confidently asserting that believing the Bible's admonitions against LGBTQ ideology is analogous to clinging to disproved beliefs that Earth is at the center of the solar system.

Paul's instructions to Timothy were to love each other in a way that "issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." Paul also advised Timothy to be wary of people "desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions."

The Reformation Project's promotion of LGBTQ ideology also invokes the Sermon on the Mount, arguing "sound Christian teachings should show good fruit." But the Gospel of Matthew records Jesus Christ saying in this sermon, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." Try as I may, I can't shake the feeling that Harvard made Matthew Vines very hungry.

All of humankind is sinful in different ways and falls short of God's glory. That includes me and everyone I know and don't know, gay or straight. My own sins preclude my inheritance of the kingdom of God, absent my confession and the gift of grace through faith in Christ. We cannot promote or rationalize sinfulness through novel interpretations or rewrites of the Bible.

2.9 September

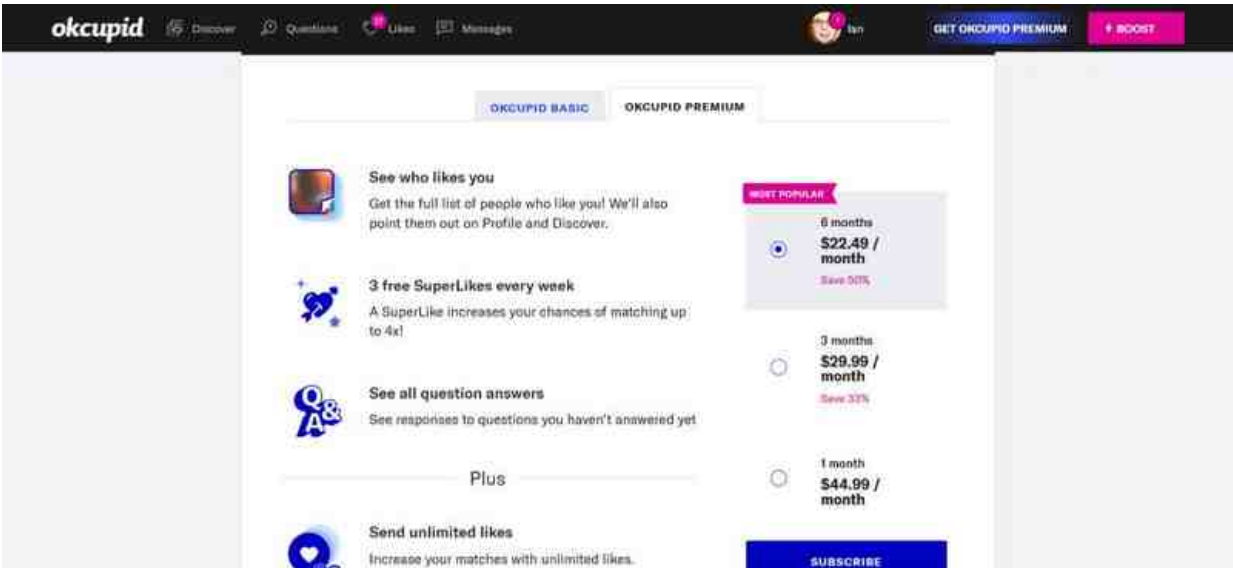
2.9.1 okcupid never worked for 18 years. (2023-09-04 17:09)

My last actual date was in 2005 with Nikki at a Caribu Coffee. When I was a member on okcupid since 2005, I attracted some women, but they never called me. Some women responded to me, but we never met. I say on my profile I was into anime like cowboy bebop, one piece, into JRPGs, first person shooters, racing games, Greenbay packers and I went to college. I said I liked camping and hiking. I don't get text messages of women and I never get visitors. st. croix county women were into country music, conservative, but seemed they wanted rich 25 year old men for boyfriends. I never meet them when I was 23 when everybody had girlfriends like on myspace. Then I'm 37 now.

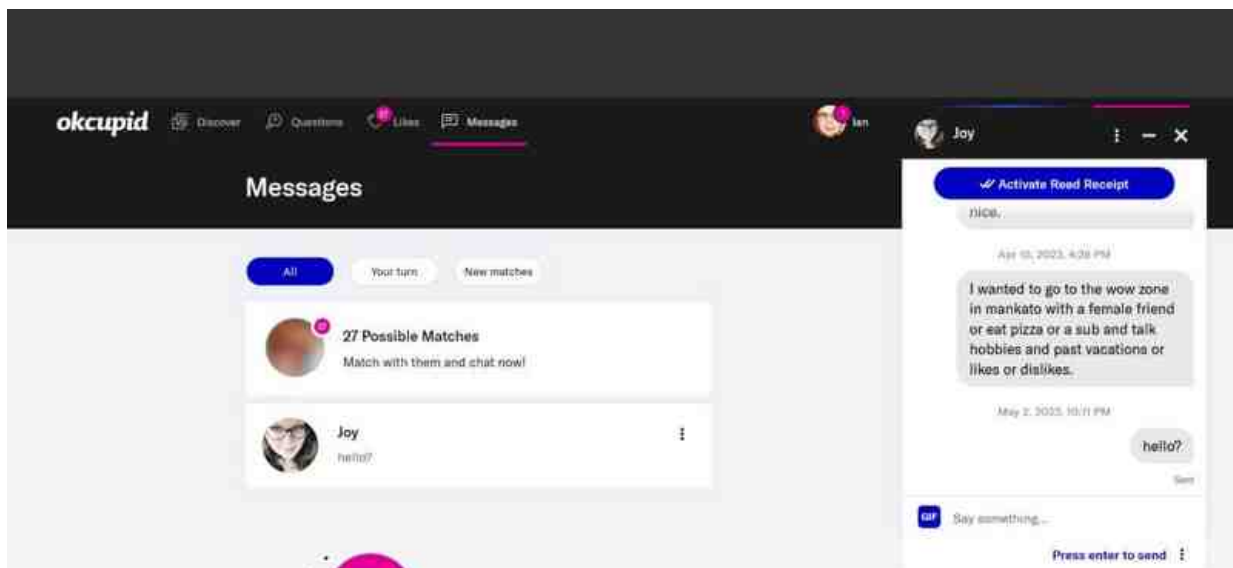
When I went premium this year, I met Amanda on okcupid. Amanda was 33 and divorced for only 2 weeks on snapchat before she blocked me. I only took a photo of her profile image for my phone. She talked about she was involved in family, and a crew of friends, played dungeons and dragons. She never met me at the Wow zone or restaurant. My cousin David

Hartmon joined the Navy in 2003 and he married Patty in 2013 and had two daughters. He never talks to me on facebook. anymore. he used to like my minnesota state fair pictures 8 years ago, Then I have generation X cousins married for 24 years. One cousin Penny was married to a husband who died in 1999 and now lives with her boy friend for 15 years. I was home alone for 23 years working at 13 jobs that closed or went bankrupt and also went to Rasmussen University for a bachelor degree. I had two boy scout friends that I met in the 2010s who married in 2008. One boy scout i was friends since 1993 was divorced since 2018, because his ex wife became bipolar. Now this boy scout friend has heart issues.

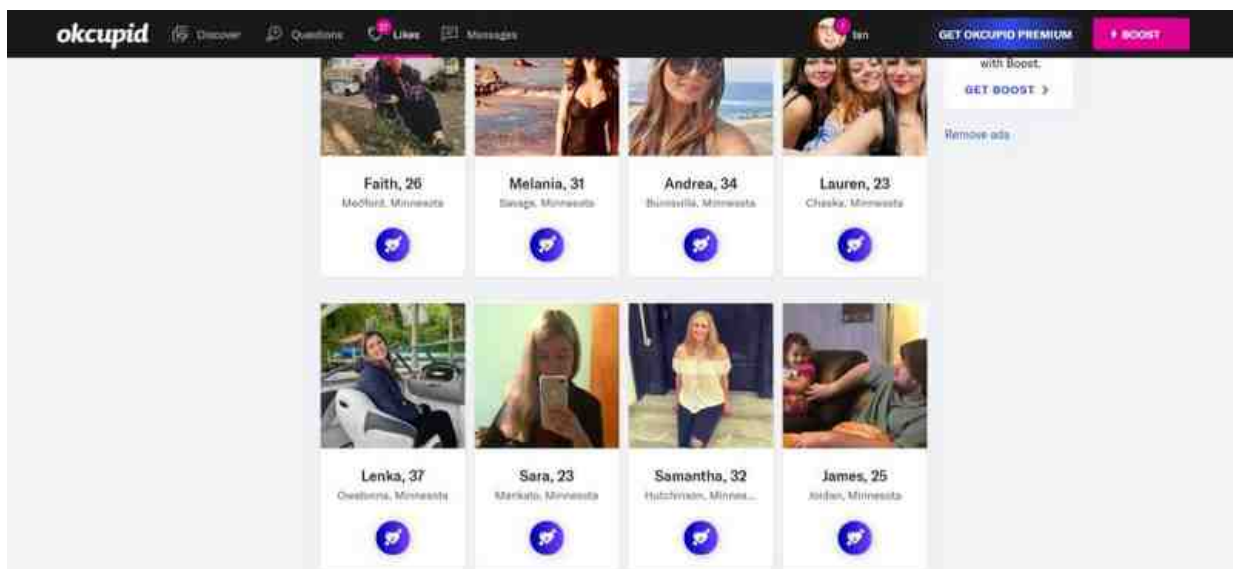
[1]



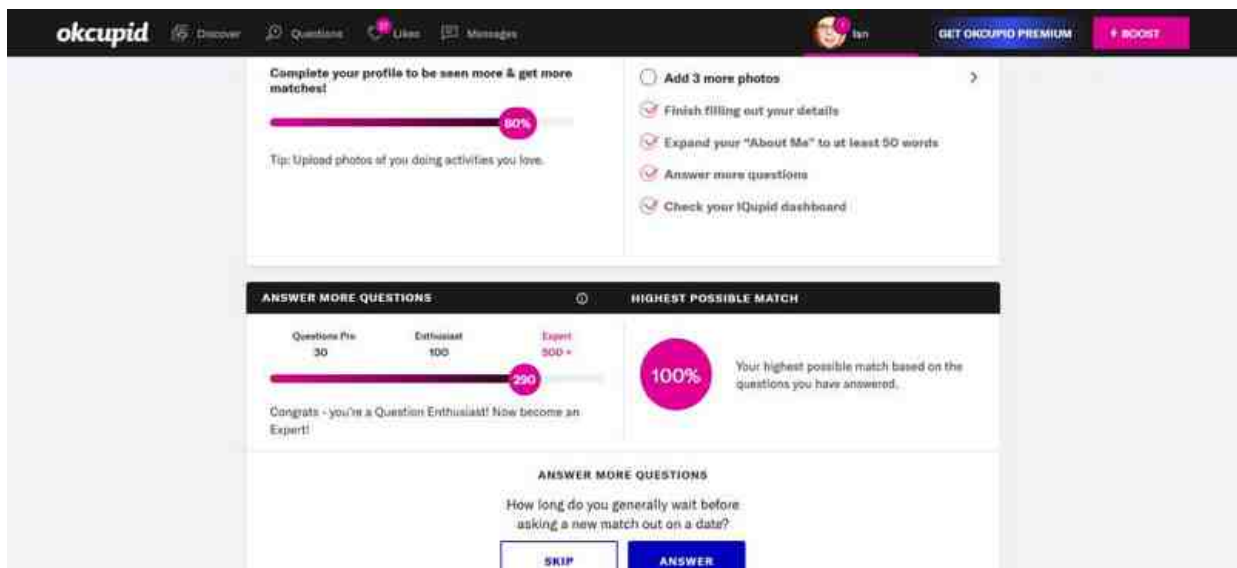
[2]



[3]



[4]



1. <https://iainthegreat.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/screenshot-2023-09-04-at-15-45-25-upgrade-to-okcupid-premium.jpg>
2. <https://iainthegreat.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/screenshot-2023-09-04-at-15-45-48-conversations-okcupid.jpg>
3. <https://iainthegreat.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/screenshot-2023-09-04-at-15-52-25-who-you-like-okcupid.jpg>
4. <https://iainthegreat.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/screenshot-2023-09-04-at-15-55-14-profile-okcupid.jpg>

2.9.2 From One Unapologetic Media Hoax to the Next (2023-09-04 17:10)

Joe Biden lied repeatedly when he claimed he knew nothing of his son Hunter's influence-peddling businesses.

The president further prevaricated that he had no involvement in Hunter's various shake-down schemes.

Yet, the media continued to misinform by serially ignoring these facts.

Had journalists just been honest and independent, then-candidate Joe Biden might have lost a presidential debate and even the 2020 election. The public would have learned that Hunter's business associates and his

laptop proved Joe was deeply involved in his son's illicit businesses.

Later, as the evidence from IRS whistleblowers mounted, the White House stonewalled subpoenaed efforts and sought to craft an outrageous plea deal reduction in Hunter's legal exposure.

Reporters ignored the Ukrainians who claimed Joe Biden himself talked to them about quid pro quo arrangements.

They again discounted Hunter's laptop, explicitly demonstrating that Hunter was whining that he had handed over large percentages of his income to his father, Joe -variously referred to as the Big Guy and a "ten percent" recipient on many deals.

They played dumb about Joe Biden's use of pseudonyms and alias email accounts to hide thousands of his communications to Hunter and associates.

They attacked the former Ukrainian prosecutor Viktor Shokin, who now claims Ukrainians likely bribed Biden.

Yet the media can no longer hide the reality that the president of the United States likely took bribes to influence or alter U.S. policy to suit his payers. Those two crimes — bribery and treason — are delineated explicitly in the Constitution as impeachable offenses.

In denial, the media has instead pivoted with hysterical glee over various weaponized prosecutions of former President Donald Trump.

But now, to use a progressive catchphrase, the proverbial “walls are closing in” on Joe Biden.

So will we at last expect the media to confront the truth?

Answer — only if Joe Biden’s cognitive and physical health continues to deteriorate geometrically to the point that he can no longer finish his term or run for reelection — and thus becomes expendable.

Such a cynical view of the media is justified, given their record of both incompetence and unapologetic deceit.

From 2015 to 2019, we were suffocated 24/7 with lies like “Russian collusion,” “Putin’s puppet,” “election rigging,” and the “Steele dossier.”

When all such “evidence” was proven to be a complete fraud cooked up through Hillary Clinton’s stealthy hiring of and collusion with a discredited ex-British spy, a Russian fabulist at the Brookings Institution, and a Clinton toady in Moscow, did the media apologize for their untruth?

Was there any media confessional that perhaps Robert Mueller and his leftwing legal team (the giddy media-dubbed “all-stars,” “dream team,”

and “hunter-killers”) proved a colossal waste of time?

Not at all.

Instead, the media went next right on to “the phone call” and “impeachment.”

The country then wasted another year.

The same biased reporters now claimed that the heroic Andrew Vindman had caught Trump fabricating lies about the Bidens — given Joe Biden was a possible 2020 opponent — to force Ukraine to investigate them or lose American foreign aid.

On that accusation, Trump was impeached.

Then the truth emerged that, unlike Joe Biden, Trump never threatened to cancel aid but merely to delay it.

Trump was fitting that the Bidens were knee-deep in Ukrainian bribes and influence peddling.

And that the whistleblower had no first-hand knowledge of the Trump call but was spoon-fed a script cooked up by the gadfly Vindman and California Rep. Adam Schiff.

The result was journalistic glee that we impeached a president for crimes that he did not commit but exempted another president, Biden, who had likely committed them.

Then came the subsequent hoax of the Russian fabricated facsimile of Hunter's laptop.

The 2020 Biden campaign and an ex-CIA head rounded up "51 intelligence authorities" to mislead the country into believing that Russian gremlins in the Kremlin had fabricated a fake laptop.

Ponder that absurd fantasy: Moscow supposedly had created fake nude pictures, fake photos of Hunter's drug use, and fake email and text messages from Hunter to the other Bidens.

The media preposterously convinced the country that the Russians and, by extension, Trump had once again sandbagged the Biden campaign.

No apologies followed when the FBI later admitted it had kept the laptop under wraps for more than a year, knew it was authentic, and yet said nothing as the media and former spooks misled the country and warped an election.

Now we are enmeshed in at least four court trials on cooked-up charges that could as easily apply to a host of Democrats as to Trump.

For the last eight years, discredited media has never expressed remorse for any of the damage they did to the country. And they will not again when their latest mythological indictments are eventually exposed.

2.9.3 The Endless, Consequence-Free Gaslighting of Karine Jean-Pierre (2023-09-04 17:12)

Let's stipulate that the job of any political spokesperson entails spinning on behalf of their boss, portraying him or her in the best possible light. This sometimes involves, shall we say, stretching the truth or cherry-picking points of emphasis. But when the chief spokesperson for the President of the United States pushes normal spin into intelligence-insulting gaslighting and outright lies, the press corps typically reacts negatively. Karine Jean-Pierre, the top mouthpiece for the Biden White House, crosses that line routinely — frequently offering preposterous assertions when challenged, usually by a small handful of reporters (when she attempts answers at all, that is, as opposed to referring inquiries to others).

She simply won't talk about the expanding Biden family enrichment scheme scandal, no matter what new revelations arise. She [1]refuses to deal with ethical questions that have explicitly been established as within her remit. And she lies brazenly about policy failures, such as the president's disastrous border crisis. Consider these two answers, uncorked on [2]back to back days. First:

DOOCY: "Eric Adams is saying...any plan that does not include stopping the flow at the border is a failed plan. So, why aren't you guys stopping the flow at the border?"

KJP: **“We are stopping the flow...**[W]hat [Biden] has been able to do...is indeed stopping...the flow.”

Fox’s Bill Melugin [3]pushes back with facts:

Per multiple sources, Border Patrol apprehended **more than 7,000 migrants who crossed the border illegally yesterday alone**, led by the Tucson, AZ sector with over 2,200. These numbers do not include known gotaways, ports of entry, or paroles into the U.S. via CBP One app...A reminder, **DHS took a victory lap in early June when daily illegal crossings averaged 3,400 in the weeks after Title 42 ended**, attributing the drop to the Biden admin’s “comprehensive plan”. We saw 7,000+ yesterday, more than double that prior average.

I’ll note that even during the “lull,” border encounters (excluding tens of thousands of monthly got-aways) were *more than triple* what President Obama’s DHS Secretary [4]described as “crisis” levels.

And those weekly numbers have since doubled. People are coming in droves to the US border because they’ve heard, mostly correctly, that they have a very good chance of being allowed to stay indefinitely, or for an extended period of time. This is an [5]even more laughable lie: **“The President has done more to secure the border, to deal with this issue of immigration than anybody else — he really has.”** It’s not even worth specifically rebutting this. The [6]effectively open borders under Joe Biden have resulted in roughly *seven million* illegal crossings since he took office. This is, by far, the worst record in modern American history.

His administration has caused this crisis. Directly. He refuses to reinstate successful Trump-era policies, partly because they’re Trump’s,

and partly because the administration is anti-enforcement. The President and Vice President have barely even attempted to pretend to care about what's happening, addressing the issue as rarely as possible. The Biden/Mayorkas Department of Homeland Security has [7]demonized US law enforcement agents, while issuing directives [8]blocking deportations of even those illegal immigrants subsequently convicted of multiple categories of additional crimes. This president's spokeswoman is allowed to lie and stonewall because the press corps is largely comprised of leftist activists who share their tribe's obsession with identity — and Jean-Pierre has declared herself an “[9]historic figure” because of her identity. They're reluctant to go there.

They're also likely a bit embarrassed for her, given how [10]conspicuously bad she is at the job, so they feel bad making things any tougher for her. But most importantly, they're on the team. They are partisan Democrats who are rooting for their side, especially with the looming threat of Trump's candidacy hovering over this administration's failures. [11]This is a question that must be asked, but the answer really is simple: **“One of the distinguishing features of Trump's presidency was an aggressive press corps that felt obligated to call out Trump's 'lies' — so why won't they apply this same standard to Biden who is inarguably a world-class liar?”** Answer: The media 'fact checkers' don't come hard after Biden or his spokesperson because Biden is a Democrat, and so are the media 'fact checkers.'

Finally, in light of Jean-Pierre's [12]recent, ludicrous statement that Biden is so energetic and busy that it's “hard to keep up” with him, I'll show you [13]yesterday's official presidential schedule.

Zero public events, though they did add shuffling Biden into FEMA for a few minutes to discuss the hurricane yesterday. During that appearance, he [14]did another one of these. Today, he's embarking on his third vacation in as many weeks.

1. <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/guybenson/2023/08/29/watch-kjps-unacceptable-stonewalling-on-hunters-art-scheme-n2627688>
2. <https://twitter.com/CurtisHouck/status/1696950249141485987>
3. https://twitter.com/BillMelugin_/status/1696928248121229473
4. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-era-border-numbers-dwarfing-obama-dhs-chiefs-standard-crisis-title-42-set-expire>
5. <https://twitter.com/WarMachineRR/status/1697334788212842898>
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11. <https://twitter.com/MZHemingway/status/1697246791216083044>

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2.9.4 Yes, Washington Is a Gerontocracy. And It's Our Fault. (2023-09-04 17:12)

For the second time in recent months, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell froze in the middle of a press conference, staring off in silence before being saved by an aide. The establishment media widely covered the episode — and reasonably so, considering his position and power.

It would be nice and ethical if the same level of scrutiny was applied to our cognitively compromised president, who regularly wanders off to shake hands with invisible leprechauns, struggles to navigate stairs, and forgets the names of his cabinet members.

In any event, it's understandable that people are getting annoyed by the advanced age of our top leaders. Still, I don't think age limits, as some have suggested, would be very useful.

For one thing, there is value in experience. There's little evidence that younger politicians are better equipped to govern. It's more likely, judging from recent events, that they're going to be just as injudicious, partisan, and perhaps less inclined to respect the constitutional order. Politicians aren't here to drive modernity or bring us new technologies (or social media accounts with lots of followers); they are here to (lightly) govern the nation within the law. Is Sen. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez or Marjorie Taylor Greene going to prove better stewards of those Republican values? Color me skeptical.

Now, there are clear cases where age should be disqualifying. California's Sen. Dianne Feinstein, 90, has reportedly relinquished power of attorney to her daughter. If a person can't be trusted to handle their own life decisions legally, how can they be entrusted with the power to make decisions over their life? That seems like a reasonable standard to push someone out of office. Then again, even a person in a coma would be better for the country than Adam Schiff or Katie Porter, so you see the problem.

Obviously, mental acuity diminishes with age, but people don't die in sequential order, and they don't mature in identical ways. There are plenty of 80-year-olds who are sharp and plenty of 60-year-olds who already struggle. Age minimums for office, as James Madison (probably) argued in *The Federalist* No. 62, make sense because a person gains a "greater extent of information and stability of character" as they age. Most 25-year-olds shouldn't even be voting. But a maximum cutoff age is entirely arbitrary. It would make more sense to administer a cognitive test (maybe throw in a civics test) than an age limit. I'm sorry, no one is going to convince me that Sen. Chuck Grassley is less competent or knowledgeable at 89 than, say, Sen. Chris Murphy at age 50.

All of this is theoretical anyway, as it would take a constitutional amendment to institute age maximums. Because guess what? A solution already exists. Vote them out. We act as if these septuagenarians and octogenarians have been thrust upon us by some unknown force. We put them there. If three-quarters of voters truly believed President Joe Biden was too old for office, they would find someone else to run. But Democrats would rather pretend that the president, not precisely Cicero in his best days, is an intellectual and physical dynamo because they want to hold onto power. Deep down, they know no one in their right mind thinks a fresh-faced Mayor Pete is any better.

The reality is that when it matters, voters across the country love the old-timers — perhaps because they are known quantities, or maybe they bring home the money, or maybe people genuinely like them. If they didn't, none of them would be in Washington.

2.9.5 Tucker Carlson Makes A Shocking Admission About Donald Trump's Presidential Ambitions (2023-09-04 17:13)

Former Fox News host Tucker Carlson agreed with Barstool Sports founder Dave Portnoy about both President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump being “too old” to be president.

The exchange occurred at the end of Carlson's “Tucker on X” [1]interview with Portnoy, which dropped Thursday evening.

Tucker Carlson agrees with Dave Portnoy that Trump should have done the debate, and also (!!) that Biden AND Trump are too old to be president: □

Portnoy: “Both Trump and Biden are too old.”

Tucker: “I agree 100 %.”

Portnoy: “How are these people running our country?”
[2]pic.twitter.com/mACQPh56Nt— Scott Morefield (@SKMorefield) [3]September 1, 2023

“To be honest, I think both Trump and Biden are too old. I don't think you should be able to be that old and be president,” Portnoy said.

“I agree 100 %,” Carlson responded after nodding emphatically during Portnoy's statement.

Carlson and Portnoy also discussed Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell freezing multiple times in public.

Trump is 77, Biden is 80, and McConnell is 81.

“How are these people running our country?” Portnoy continued. “There are no companies in the world where I would buy stock where you’re having the CEO seemingly at that advanced age. It’s just only in politics. It’s crazy.

They’re both right, of course. Biden isn’t much older than Trump, and while some octogenarians remain vibrant into their eighth decade, it’s common to experience significant physical and cognitive decline, and it can often hit all at once. Should Trump win the primary and pull off a nearly impossible win in the general, he would be 78 when he enters and 82 when he leaves office, quite comparable with Biden’s age.

Carlson told Portnoy earlier in the interview that Trump approached him about the interview that dropped during last week’s GOP presidential debate, adding that he and his producer had “no idea” when the deal was made whether Trump would follow through or go ahead and participate in the debate.

Rate this:

1. <https://twitter.com/TuckerCarlson/status/1697378139729539549>
2. <https://t.co/mACQPh56Nt>
3. https://twitter.com/SKMorefield/status/1697416053159063632?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

2.9.6 Musk Must Decide to Own or Be Owned (2023-09-04 17:18)

On Friday, X owner and CTO Elon Musk revealed the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has tried to “[1]strangle X/Twitter,” confirming what many have suspected of the nonprofit as the [2]“arbiter of the truth.”

Musk informed writer and streamer Keith Woods, who has been at the forefront of the push to remove the ADL from the platform.

In a subsequent Tweet, [3]Woods stated,
“The ADL’s favorite tactic is financially blackmailing social media companies into removing free speech on their platforms. ... Why should they have a platform on X to hold @elonmusk to ransom? It’s time to #BanTheADL.”

He also mentioned the [4]ADL’s advertiser boycott of Tucker Carlson as a prime example of the argument.

Musk [5]liked the Tweet—actually a few of Woods’—adding to the weekend’s top trending #BanTheADL.

At that moment, quite surprisingly, the Right came together.

The Daily Wire commentator Matt Walsh [6]quote-tweeted ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt, “If you want to keep hate off the platform, then I guess you agree that we need to #BanTheADL.”

Co-founder of the outlet, Jeremy Boreing, added, “...[7]the ADL is garbage.”

Author and filmmaker Dinesh D’Souza also [8]supplemented the cause: “... They want to ban hate, so X should oblige them and ban these merchants of hate ...”

TPUSA’s founder wasn’t silent either, as [9]Charlie Kirk remarked,
“... today the ADL is a hate group that dons a religious mask to justify stoking hatred of the left’s enemies. ... the ADL has no place extorting X/Twitter or any other social media companies ...”

Conservative activist “Chief Trumpster,” quick on the scene, dug up a [10]deleted Tweet from Kirk with a more eye-opening perspective, stating, “... The ADL is a mass purveyor of anti-white hate.”

It's truly remarkable to see Con Inc. respond to #BanTheADL. It notably fears calling out racial discrimination against white people because today's automatic response is accusations of racism or white supremacy, oddly for pointing it out. These mainstream conservatives have long [11]feared being called "racist." This subjugation is similar to antiracist leftist ideology, which is what really separates these conservatives from the Dissident Right.

So, how did the ADL become the fear mongering moral police that it is today?

It was founded in 1913, the year a Jewish man, Leo Frank, was convicted of [12]rape-strangulation of 13-year-old Mary Phagan.

Frank attempted to frame James Conley, a black janitor but was convicted and sentenced to death. He was ultimately pardoned 73 years after citizens of Marietta [13]hung him for the molestation-slaying.

Through this, the ADL maximized the image of antisemitism with hundreds of articles and media portrayals, which it still does to this day.

It recently Tweeted that the jury was "[14]marred by antisemitism." Even the [15]History Channel and the [16]Encyclopaedia Britannica were duped—perhaps coerced. The media and academics, like those at the University of Nevada, questioned the trial and [17]juries with white males.

This all propelled the ADL mission against [18]what it deems "white supremacy"—a definition that continues to expand to include more and more people, ideologies, symbols, numbers and phrases.

The organization declared that referring to [19]anti-racism as anti-white is racist coding.

The phrase “[20]It’s Okay To Be White” to the ADL is racist, along with the alleged hate slogan “[21]White Lives Matter.” This nonprofit has indeed established today’s norms allowing such hate, as [22]substituting any other race in either slogan would be socially acceptable.

In 2020, the [23]ADL revised its definition of racism as “the marginalization and/or oppression of people of color based on a socially constructed racial hierarchy that privileges white people.” CNN reported Greenblatt said it was to acknowledge the “[24]impact of white supremacy.” Its[25] definition of antisemitism is also a bit broad, claiming it “may take the form of religious teachings,” including “to isolate, oppress ...”

This is what the ADL does. The organization pushes upon its purposeful interpretations of antisemitism and racism to condemn anything Eurocentric or Christian.

The [26]ADL condemned Mel Gibson’s blockbuster rendition of the Passion of Jesus, which the [27]Vatican’s communication team revered. It stated the movie “continues its unambiguous portrayal of Jews as being responsible for the death of Jesus.”

[28]Matthew 12:14 states, “Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against Him, how they might destroy Him.” [29]John 11:46-57 also supplements the depiction of his death by the [30]Pharisees.

The truth is not antisemitic, nor is it racist—but the ADL seems to have leveraged those fears to extort ordinary people, politics and the general culture. It even [31]dedicated a whole database for its utility, including 17 numbers defined as hate symbols.

The ADL claims [32]“83” stands for “Heil Christ” or “Hail Christ,” allegedly used by those associated with Christian Identity. “88,” too, is white supremacist, along with “14” and “43,” among others.

Another example of the evident racial disdain occurred in August. Musk responded to a Tweeted video of South Africa’s EFF leader Julius Malema, who denied his “Kill the Boer, kill the farmer” [33]chant to nearly 100,000 cheers at FNB Stadium to be genocidal. Malema said, [34]“Why must I educate Elon Musk? ... The only thing that protects him is his white skin.”

Musk, a white South African, responded, [35]“Why do you say nothing @ADL?” He also wrote, [36]“They are openly pushing for genocide of white people in South Africa.”

The ADL has actually taken a stance on the South African killings. In 2017, Senior Research Fellow at the ADL’s Center of Extremism Mark Pitcavage said it’s a [37]“racist obsession” and “white supremacist claim.”

More recently, the organization defended the “Kill the Boer” chant. [38]Greenblatt stated, “baseless claims of ‘white genocide’ have been made by right-wing extremists in the US, particularly white supremacists ...”

South African MP Noko Masipa, DA Shadow Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, [39]published a press release in August confirming the rise in murders “against a particular group in society.”

[40]According to SA People News, South Africa endured 333 brutal attacks against farmers last year and 55 murders of men, women and children. The South African publication highlights those murdered and gives a voice against the violence that the West won’t, as it toes the lines of the ADL.

Greenblatt and his mafia reign supreme as unelected arbiters of truth, morality and speech—completely unchecked.

The organization has repeatedly tried to [41]reevaluate Section 230, which protects Americans’ freedom of expression online by allowing platforms like X not to be held accountable for users’ content.

Only a few months ago, the [42]ADL called advertisers to boycott Twitter. It did so in November 2022 [43]after Musk reinstated former President Donald Trump. The ADL’s boycott led to a [44]“massive drop in revenue,” according to Musk.

Can the wealthiest man in the world really take on the ADL, a centralized power continually funded by the taxpayer?

After the over 150,000 Tweets attached to the #BanTheADL, the ADL’s Pitcavage, locked his X account, condemning the hashtag as [45]organized by “white supremacists.”

An [46]ADL spokesperson reiterated the message to Mashable that it was being pushed by “antisemites, white supremacists ... nothing new.”

What is nothing new is the ADL’s fallback to accusations of antisemitism and white supremacy.

#BanTheADL

was so persuasive and relatable that it trended for two straight days in a top spot. It has nothing to do with extremism, and people are frankly tired of this nonsense.

Musk understands this, as he [47]suggested a poll on Saturday evening regarding the ADL's ban.

His [48]latest Tweet said,

"The ADL has done a lot of good work in prior decades, but has been overzealous in recent years & hijacked by woke mind virus."

Musk

appears cautious and needs to return as the authority of X. He has grassroots support and surprising unity among conservatives.

If

this \$235 billionaire genius can't take down the Anti-Defamation League, no one can, revealing a much more disturbing view of the power dynamics in the States and perhaps abroad.

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2.9.7 Union Leaders Aren't Fooling Anyone on Labor Day (2023-09-04 17:20)

Happy “Illusory Truth Effect” Day.

No, you won't find it designated as such on too many calendars, but in the minds of the country's union bosses, Labor Day has become an annual exercise in what psychologists describe as the “tendency to believe false information to be correct after repeated exposure.”

In this case, the illusion is that unions are as relevant as they ever were.

And as always, guest opinions to that effect ghost-written on behalf of countless labor moguls will show up on as many editorial pages as will have them in the vain hope that repeated exposure will make it true.

In fact, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), union membership in 2022 — the last full year for which there are records — continued its decades-long downward trend, plunging from 10.3 percent to 10.1 percent of the nation's workers. This despite the “most pro-union president you've ever seen” spending the past two and a half years lavishing billions of taxpayer dollars on his benefactors in Big Labor.

But even that doesn't tell the whole story. It turns out the union membership rate among workers in the private-sector — the 85 percent of the total workforce producing 100 percent of the country's gross national product — fell to 6.0 percent in 2022, down from 6.1 percent in 2021, further extending the precipitous decline reported since private-sector union membership peaked in the mid-1950s.

For decades, overall union numbers have been inflated by the membership rate reported for government employees, whose compensation, not coincidentally, is derived from tax dollars rather than profits and dispensed all too frequently by politicians who owe their office to campaign contributions from organized labor.

Even so, public-sector unions, too, saw their membership shrink from 33.6 to 33.1 percent in 2022.

If union leaders address the phenomenon at all, the flowery Labor Day tributes to themselves will no doubt ascribe it to vague corporate conspiracies orchestrated by shadowy right-wing billionaires.

In reality, whatever wounds organized labor has suffered in recent years have been almost entirely self-inflicted.

Like the Labor Day holiday itself, the organized labor movement traces its roots in this country back to the late 1880s and, in those days, arguably played a major role in helping to end child labor abuses and make workplaces safer during the Industrial Revolution.

Over time, however, names like OSHA, the EPA and an alphabet soup of government agencies stepped in to enforce safety and scheduling regulations. Likewise, with pay and benefits largely dictated by profits rather than hardball negotiations, unions nowadays have time to dabble in politics.

They argue this activity is appropriate because the people it helps to elect have passed hundreds of pro-union (though not necessarily pro-worker) measures over the years. But increasingly, unions have veered off into areas of vital interest to the overwhelmingly liberal leadership but having little or nothing to with the members' workplace concerns.

For example:

the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) has formed a so called "Lavender Caucus" to advocate on its behalf for pro-LGBTQ legislation;

the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) issued a resolution demanding stricter gun control laws;

the National Education Association (NEA) quietly published a gender ideology resource guide, "Schools in Transition," in 2015 that laid the groundwork for some of the craziest positions on gendered bathrooms, high school sports and pronoun usage confounding parents and teachers across the country;

NEA President Becky Pringle in 2022 issued a statement on behalf of her union excoriating the U.S. Supreme Court for its ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson* overturning *Roe v. Wade* and sending the abortion question back to the state; and,

United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) President Cecily Myart-Cruz in 2021 asks her union to issue a resolution condemning the state of Israel for its "war crimes" against the Palestinians.

Small wonder a growing number of unionized workers in the public sector are opting out in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 2018 ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME* affirming that government employees cannot be forced to join or financially support a union. And despite the desperate and unconstitutional tactics adopted by unions to avoid compliance

with the decision, nearly 750,000 public employees have left their union since it was issued, with the pace increasing every day.

It also explains why, just this year, the legislatures in Florida, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky have passed strong measures to limit the influence of public-sector unions over their governance.

Contrary to the bill of goods union propagandists will almost certainly be peddling once again this Labor Day, the holiday was adopted by Congress to honor the “social and economic achievements of American workers,” not the unions claiming to represent them.

Parroting the same lies year after year has had little effect on union membership numbers and none at all on the dismal future labor leaders have purchased for themselves with someone else’s dues dollars.

2.9.8 Is America Under the Thumb of a Shadow President? (2023-09-04 17:23)

Those of us who have been paying attention since January of 2021 have all seen the ongoing deterioration of President Biden, and it’s a matter of some concern for everyone, be they Left, Right, or center, that the man who supposedly sits at the levers of power in Washington is not all he should be. (I would argue that he’s not even within shouting distance of where he should be.)

The Messenger’s Douglas MacKinnon is of the opinion that Joe Biden, in fact, [1]isn’t the guy who’s really in charge

.

With Donald Trump and Joe Biden in the political mix for the 2024 presidential election, there is nothing normal about our politics or this campaign season. Almost no question is too crazy to ask.

With that in mind, during a recent [2]interview with *The Daily Mail*, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a Republican candidate for president next year, said: “I think everybody questions who calls the shots in the White House since Biden’s cognitive health has declined.” Certainly, [3]President Biden’s age — he’d be 86 at the end of a second term, if he wins — and potential for cognitive decline has become a factor as his presidency has continued.

His doctor has [4]proclaimed him healthy and capable of doing the job, but for those who do [5]believe

Biden has cognitive difficulties and that someone is behind him calling the shots, the list of “suspects” is short: former President Barack Obama, who famously [6]sneered,

"Don't underestimate Joe's ability to f— things up," Biden's former chief of staff, Ron Klain, or his the former head of domestic policy, Susan Rice. Both Klain and Rice have extensive experience working in government and in the White House.

My RedState colleague Sister Toldjah recently [7]presented a couple of additional suspects.

Such was the case on Wednesday, when during the [8]now-infamous clip of Biden losing it with Fox News White House correspondent Peter Doocy, a handler stepped in moments after Doocy began asking the Devon Archer speakerphone question — and proceeded to promptly take control of the situation... and Joe Biden.

Take a look at the video from a different angle than the one that has been widely shared and notice the woman who walks up not long after Doocy [9]climbs the barricade and walks toward him. The very second Biden gives her the opportunity she steers him away and the supposed leader of the free world goes willingly along with her:

Fox reporter Peter Doocy shouted a question to the president during the event in New Mexico. When the president could not hear him, he asked him to get closer. Doocy jumped over the barriers to speak with the president. It is hard to hear the conversation, but it was an... [10]pic.twitter.com/dgRxxmTqam — Emel Akan (@mlakan) [11]August 9, 2023

I am (as always) skeptical. I don't think the Obamas are pulling any strings; they seem to be enjoying their relaxed post-presidency years too much, with Barack raking in [12]huge speaking fees in between relaxing at one of their [13]many luxurious homes. Why, with all that, would you want to be bothered with propping up old Joe Biden, especially since there seems to be [14]little love lost between current and former President?

With all of the available evidence in hand, though, I think I have a fairly good idea of who is playing [15]Edith Wilson to Joe Biden's Woodrow: None other than the First Lady, "Dr." Jill Biden.

We can tell a lot about "Dr." Jill Biden's personality by her insistence on the doctoral title when most PhDs don't insist on that form of address. For example, some years back, I worked for one of the smartest men I've ever known, who had a PhD in industrial chemistry and insisted on being called simply "John." But Jill Biden uses that form regularly, even though her doctorate is in Education (an EdD, not a PhD).

Jill Biden is clearly the most likely candidate. Why? The Biden Administration's clear and present ineptitude. "Dr." Biden has never

shown any particular competence, [16]even in her supposedly chosen field. That explains volumes about this [17]Dunning-Kruger presidency; the person who is supposed to be in charge doesn't know what's going on, and the person who is actually in charge doesn't know what she's doing.

Friends, 2024 can't come fast enough.

1. <https://themessenger.com/opinion/is-there-a-shadow-president-behind-biden>
2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12174907/Nikki-Haley-asks-REALLY-running-White-House-80-year-old-Biden.html>
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2.9.9 Here's How the Media Handled Fetterman's Stroke Vs. McConnell's 'Freeze' (2023-09-04 17:27)

It is night and day how the mainstream media handled Democrat Sen. John Fetterman's (D-PA.) stroke and Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-KY.) 30-second "freeze," both of which have critics questioning their abilities to remain in office.

When McConnell suffered from two "freeze" episodes in which he stood at a podium in front of reporters unable to speak, the media used words such as "embarrassing" and "[1]alarming."

However, Left-wing media outlets praised Fetterman's recent hospitalization for depression after his stroke as "powerful" in which is [2]inspiring to others suffering from mental health disorders.

Critics raised concerns about Fetterman's ability to serve as senator after he struggled to speak coherently for almost an hour during a debate against his GOP opponent, Dr. Mehmet Oz.

The media dismissed [3] concerns regarding his impairment as "ableism."

Left-wing outlets [4]sympathized

with Fetterman while, at the same time, disability advocates rushed to his side to praise his courage to debate live on stage.

Senator Bob Casey:

John Fetterman's "message came through very clearly...his answers were very direct."

On what planet? [5]pic.twitter.com/mrfb38d68l — Townhall.com (@townhallcom) [6]October 26, 2022

A Democrat voter told [7] CNN

that Fetterman's post-stroke performance during the debate was a "profile in courage."

On the contrary, when reporting on McConnell's health scare, the media immediately began calling on the Republican to retire, raising concerns he is too old to hold office.

A

[8]CNN columnist

said that McConnell's "freeze" was "embarrassing" and an "increasing political problem."

However, President Joe Biden's gaffes and repeated tumbings are *not* an issue to the Left-wing media.

Additionally,

a Politico Playbook article, "Mitch McConnell's Untenable Silence," suggested that McConnell warrants more scrutiny than Fetterman because he is a party leader.

[9] Axios

noted that McConnell's age and physical health will be a contender when deciding the fate of his career.

The

left-leaning outlet did, however, note that questioning McConnell's age will force Democrats also to address Biden's declining health as he turns 81 in November.

[10] Time Magazine

also

hit back against critics who take Biden's age into play, saying that "ageist attacks" are outdated stereotypes and hurt younger generations.

1. https://twitter.com/nytimes/status/1696980633111703891?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1696980633111703891%7Ctwgr%5E5a77b834af9116482e66175

2. https://twitter.com/RobynMPowell/status/1586467092823359488?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1586467092823359488%7Ctwgr%5E5a77b834af9116482e

3. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2022/10/27/fetterman-oz-debate-stroke-disability/>

4. https://twitter.com/townhallcom/status/1585082460391747589?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

5. <https://t.co/mrfb38d681>

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7. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/26/politics/john-fetterman-oz-debate-pa-senate-stroke/index.html>

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2.9.10 The Ghosts of 9/11 (2023-09-11 22:25)

Today is the 22nd remembrance of our modern-day Pearl Harbor, our “date which will live in infamy.” It was on this day, September 11, 2001, that I was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina on an exchange assignment with the II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters. We had just finished morning physical training (PT) and I was dressing in my office after personal hygiene. I got a call from my counterpart at Marina Forces, Atlantic (MARFORLANT) that something had just happened in New York, and I needed to get to the Current Operations Center (COC). As I hurriedly dressed, our entire G3 future operations (FOPS) hall started buzzing. We all scrambled to the COC and arrived just in time to see the second aircraft hit the tower. At that moment, we knew that this was not an accident, it was an attack. Then came the news about the aircraft hitting the Pentagon, at the section that housed the US Army G1 (Personnel) directorate. That was personal because I had friends that were there.

By the time we learned about the crash of the fourth aircraft in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, we were doing what warriors do, asking each other strategic and operational level questions. Who could be responsible? What would be the immediate request or response? How did we begin to prepare our expeditionary forces and get the right DEFCON and preparation levels, and orders issued? It was a long day, but by the end of the day we pieced together all the previous terror attacks, and our assessments were confirmed: Al Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden.

We started to analyze force package courses of action and potential areas of deployment. All roads led to Afghanistan.

It was a late night, and, finally, we headed home to get some hours of sleep, if possible. I remember getting to my little apartment in Swansboro, NC, and looking up into the sky, and it hit me. There, for the first time in my life, there were no sounds, no blinking lights; the

night sky did not speak. I did not sleep well that evening. My wife Angela was from New York, and when we first met, she worked near the World Trade Towers at Bankers Trust. She had been devastated, she and the girls were still living two hours away in Fayetteville, NC, since I had been stationed at Ft. Bragg and we had built a house there. As we talked, my mind pondered when would I be called into action for my second combat duty. I was angry, especially watching my fellow Americans leap from buildings choosing to die in that manner, rather than be burned alive. My mind replayed the collapse of the towers and watched the civilians, Americans, covered in dust. I thought about the NYPD and NYFD men and women who ran to and into the towers and their courage.

My American brothers and sisters had to be avenged, and I would be ready. I had a personal part in the immediate response of America to 9-11. The Special Forces team "Horse Soldiers" who worked with the Northern Alliance enabling them to defeat the Taliban/Al Qaeda and win back Mazar-a-Sharif, was led by one of my former Army ROTC cadets at Kansas State University. The movie "12 Strong" depicted, with some embellishment, their exploits.

I did finally get the call and served in 2003 in Iraq and 2005-2007 in Afghanistan.

But here we are now, 22 years later, and the ghosts of 9-11 are calling out to us. We have allowed the restoration of the very same enemy that enabled the attack on us to regain power. No, I disagree with negotiating with terrorists. Terrorists only understand the language of strength and might, not negotiation, compromise, or appeasement. They equate that with weakness. There is indeed evil in this world, I have seen it, we all experienced it 22 years ago, and on various other occasions. Good cannot coexist with evil, and yes, there are some people who just need to have their asses kicked and killed. I am not some warmonger, but I am a combat veteran and a realist. I believe in Reagan's mantra, "peace through strength." Weakness in enticing and abandoning Afghanistan was an act of emboldening our enemies, evil.

Here we are still, 22 years later talking about plea deals with the

9-11 terrorist masterminds. Heck, why are these individuals still alive? They are non-state, non-uniformed belligerents on the battlefield—they deserve only one fate, death. Why are we having our Professional Golf Association going into negotiations with the very country that provided the 9-11 terrorists, not to mention Osama bin Laden? There is no sport, activity, or business dealing that should outweigh what we experienced 22 years ago, and the ghosts of 9-11 are watching.

We should be energy independent, not begging the same country that sent their sons to kill us 22 years ago for energy resources.

How have we come to the point where our very own president will not be in attendance in NYC for the 9-11 remembrance? The ghosts of 9-11 are watching, along with us, who were personally affected by that day of infamy. How abjectly disturbing it was that on the 20th remembrance of 9-11, the Taliban held a celebratory parade in Kabul Afghanistan, displaying the US military equipment that had been left behind.

The spirits of those American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who bled and gave their lives in Afghanistan are watching, including the 13 who, two years ago, unnecessarily lost their lives due to the most significant strategic, operational, and tactical debacle this nation will ever know. Yet, no one has been held responsible. As a matter of fact, those incompetent individuals — who have blood upon their hands — still claim their surrender was a brilliant success.

Where were you this day, 22 years ago, and how will you remember this day, not just today, but for every day going forward? The ghosts of 9-11 had found some semblance of peace, now they have been stirred and walked about in a state of disbelief. They can never be forgotten. This was a day that, 22 years ago, Islamic jihadism – terrorism — came squarely to our door, and 3,000 American lives were lost. It was not a day “when some people did something,” words spoken by a person who is an elected member of our US House of Representatives, someone who should have been immediately removed. This is not a day to make insidious political comparisons to, such as progressive socialist leftists

comparing it to January 6th.

As the ghosts of 9-11 stir about, we must do all we can to give their souls peace and closure. That means we must never forget what happened that day, and sadly, an open border policy advances the possibility of such happening again.

Never Forget, 9-11! Let us return a quantum of solace to the ghosts of 9-11.

2.9.11 Afraid for Our Country': Graham Responds to News a Grand Jury Wanted to Indict Him (2023-09-13 22:25)

Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member and Republican Senator Lindsey Graham is responding to news Friday that a grand jury in Fulton County, Georgia wanted to indict him for asking questions about the 2020 presidential election.

"I'm very worried about the country right now. I was the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee [in 2020]. This election was contested in courts in multiple states. I had to explain to the people of South Carolina my vote. I had to decide whether or not to have a hearing about the allegations in Georgia and other places. I called around different places, including Georgia, as a sitting United States Senator from the Judiciary Committee. I eventually certified the election in all states including Georgia. I didn't find any evidence of mass voter but I did have concerns about the mail in ballot systems in Georgia and other places," Graham said in response to the news, noting Fulton County is one of the most liberal jurisdictions in the country. "This is troubling for the country. We can't criminalize Senators doing their job when they have a constitutional requirement to fulfill. It would have been irresponsible in my opinion as chairman of the Committee not to find out what happened."

“We’re opening up pandora’s box here,” he continued. “We have to be careful not to use the legal system as a political tool.”

LIVE: South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham speaks live [1]<https://t.co/av8MwcjuH>— WYFF News 4 (@wyffnews4) [2]September 8, 2023

Fulton County Grand Jury Also Sought Indictments Against Current and Former Senators [3]<https://t.co/1wPJolhSbl>— Townhall.com (@townhallcom) [4]September 8, 2023

Meanwhile President Donald Trump and 18 of his associates, including his attorneys, are expected to stand trial in October.

1. <https://t.co/av8MwcjuH>
2. https://twitter.com/wyffnews4/status/1700189456232493356?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
3. <https://t.co/1wPJolhSbl>
4. https://twitter.com/townhallcom/status/1700165854296469961?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

2.9.12 In Migrant Crisis, New York Still Can't Face Reality (2023-09-13 22:47)

New York City Mayor Eric Adams has taken a leading role among Democrats in conceding the damage done to local communities by the Biden administration's policy of allowing millions of illegal border crossers to remain in the United States. Adams recently raised eyebrows in his party by saying the arrival of thousands of illegal asylum-seekers, with their enormous demands for economic and social services, "will destroy New York City."

"Month after month, I stood up, and I said, 'This is going to come to a neighborhood near you,'" Adams told a community meeting last week. "Well, we're here. We're getting no support on this national crisis. ... Let me tell you something, New Yorkers. Never in my life have I had a problem that I did not see an ending to. I don't see an ending to this. I don't see an ending to this. This issue will destroy New York City."

City officials estimate that more than 110,000 migrants have arrived in New York in the current crisis. Adams said the cost of caring for them will balloon the city's deficit and force cuts in services for New York residents. "I said it last year when we had 15,000," Adams said, "and I'm telling you now, with 110,000, the city we knew, we're about to lose."

It's remarkable to hear a prominent Democrat say something like that, given that this is a problem created by a sitting Democratic president. But for all his candor, Adams still cannot admit what is causing the crisis that he says threatens to destroy his city.

"It started with a madman down in Texas deciding he wanted to bus people up to New York City," Adams said, referring to Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who several months ago began busing groups of willing migrants to New York. But here's the thing: Abbott recently announced that Texas has sent more than 13,300 migrants to New York since August 2022. New York, however, says it has received more than 110,000 migrants.

If New York has received 110,000, but only 13,000 came from Texas, then where did the other 97,000 or so migrants come from? If Mayor Adams knew, he might better understand the source of New York's problem.

I

asked Jessica Vaughan, director of policy studies for the Center for Immigration Studies, a group that favors more restrictions on immigration. "It's ridiculous for Mayor Adams to blame Gov. Abbott for this problem when only 13,000 came on buses organized by Texas," Vaughan responded in an email exchange. "Besides, many of them probably were looking to get to New York anyway. Texas is mainly facilitating what the migrants want to do already."

But how did the 97,000 get to New York? First of all, the Biden administration appears to be directly arranging flights of illegal border crossers to the New York area. Beyond that, Vaughan notes: "Some are taking buses organized by non-governmental organization contractors in Texas and other border states, who are being paid by the federal government, with taxpayer money. Some, including 'gotaways' who evaded the Border Patrol, are traditionally coming on their own or assisted by smugglers. Some are coming from the northern border, also experiencing record illegal entries."

Vaughan noted that "one attraction" for the illegal border crossers is "New York's self-designation as a sanctuary city." The migrants know the city will feed them, give them a place to stay, deliver other social services, educate their children, give them a municipal ID and a driver's license. Even if they get in trouble with the law, they know they will not be turned over to immigration authorities.

Adams speaks as if he is helpless to deal with the sheer volume of migrants – which, it should be noted, is less than the number of migrants who arrive at the southern border every couple of days. But the mayor has powers of his own. "He could take steps to mitigate the problem," Vaughan said. "Why not try to work with Gov. Abbott instead of calling him a madman? Demand that Biden shut down the flow on the border? Refuse to allow the migrants to be bused in and sheltered in inappropriate places like hotels, at least without coordination with New York officials? (Putting the migrants in hotels is almost certainly a violation of zoning laws, which is how 30 New York counties obtained restraining orders against migrant placements in their jurisdictions.) Warn potential employers that hiring illegal workers will not be tolerated. Try to work with ICE to identify and remove the criminals among the new arrivals."

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"There is a lot Adams could do," Vaughan concluded. "He is the mayor, not a doormat."

But

first, Adams would have to admit the source of the problem – and it is not Greg Abbott. New York's migrant problems result from policies promised by candidate Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential race and delivered by President Joe Biden in the two years and eight months since January 2021. Railing about a "madman" in Texas will not solve a problem that started in the White House.

2.9.13 A Blatantly Unconstitutional Gun Edict Highlights the Hazards of Emergency Powers (2023-09-13 22:48)

When New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham issued "a public health emergency order" that purportedly suspended the right to bear arms in Albuquerque and surrounding Bernalillo County last week, her justification was seemingly straightforward. "I have emergency powers," she told The New York Times. "Gun violence is an epidemic. Therefore, it's an emergency."

Grisham's stunt was widely condemned as blatantly unconstitutional, even by some leading gun control supporters. But her legal rationale also underlined the perils posed by the sweeping emergency powers that legislators in many states have granted governors – a problem that was abundantly clear during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grisham, a Democrat, laid the ground for her ban on public possession of operable firearms last Thursday when she declared that gun violence in New Mexico "constitutes a statewide public health emergency of unknown duration" under the state's Public Health Emergency Response Act. That law defines

a "public health emergency" as "an extremely dangerous condition or a highly infectious or toxic agent, including a threatening communicable disease, that poses an imminent threat of substantial harm."

Grisham

also invoked New Mexico's All Hazard Emergency Management Act, saying gun violence "constitutes a man-made disaster causing or threatening widespread physical or economic harm that is beyond local control." In her gun order, which she issued the next day, Grisham asserted that violent crime is also "a condition of public health importance," which New Mexico's Public Health Act defines as "an infection, a disease, a syndrome, a symptom, an injury or other threat that is identifiable on an individual or community level and can reasonably be expected to lead to adverse health effects in the community." Those labels were meant to trigger the "emergency powers," Grisham claims. The All Hazard Emergency Management Act, for example, says the governor may issue "necessary orders" to carry out its provisions, and it specifically authorizes the governor to "prohibit" the "possession of firearms or any other deadly weapon by a person in any place other than his place of residence or business, except for peace officers."

During

the pandemic, Grisham relied heavily on these laws when she issued many scientifically dubious edicts. In November 2020, for example, she banned outdoor activities and required New Mexicans to wear masks whenever they left their homes, which she said they should not do "unless it's an emergency or for an essential need like food and water."

Unlike

gun violence, COVID-19 was a literal epidemic. But Grisham thinks both threats empower her to act like a dictator for however long she deems necessary. She repeatedly renewed her COVID-19 emergency orders and is threatening to do the same with her gun decree, which initially lasts for 30 days but can be renewed indefinitely.

It seems unlikely

that the persistent, omnipresent threat of violent crime constitutes the sort of "emergency" that New Mexico legislators had in mind. But the more important point, repeatedly confirmed by state and federal courts, is that even properly defined emergencies do not nullify constitutional rights.

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Two gun rights groups immediately challenged Grisham's order in federal court, noting that it defies last year's Supreme Court decision upholding the Second Amendment right to possess guns in public for self-defense. Albuquerque Police Chief Harold Medina and Bernalillo County Sheriff John Allen said they would not enforce the order, and two Republican state legislators said it was grounds for impeachment.

"I support gun safety laws," Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Calif.) said, but Grisham's order "violates the U.S. Constitution," and "there is no such thing as a state public health emergency exception to the U.S. Constitution." Gun control activist David Hogg concurred.

Grisham admitted that her order was unlikely to pass legal muster and, even if it did, would not affect the behavior of criminals. But if it encourages legislators to reconsider the wisdom of letting governors rule by decree based on open-ended emergencies that they themselves declare, it will have served a useful purpose.

2.9.14 The Bluster and Demise of Sanctuary Cities (2023-09-13 22:52)

There is a huge difference between true caring and indignant self-righteousness, a fact that the mayors of many sanctuary cities are now learning. It's one thing to climb up on your soap box and declare that immigration makes communities stronger when you have no idea what you're talking about. The truth is that these cities never had any intention of being sanctuaries for anyone. They never dreamed that the overflow would reach them. So they smugly smirked and ridiculed the governors and mayors of border cities and states, dismissing the immigration mess and open borders as someone else's problem.

Now their holier-than-thou attitudes have dissipated into whining. Their smugness has been replaced with poor me syndrome, as they begin to understand the full weight of the issue.

Two shining examples of rhetoric over reality are, of course, New York and Chicago.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams trumpeted the fact that NYC would welcome and shelter immigrants. That was until both Texas and Florida began to send buses and planeloads of illegal aliens to his city. Soon — within weeks, actually — Adams was bemoaning his city's fate. He went crying to the White House for financial help and threatened legal action against non-sanctuary cities if they wouldn't help him by accepting some of the city's overflow.

At a recent town hall, Adams was singing an entirely different tune while proving he was still a liberal by blaming everyone else. He whined that the raging migrant crisis would destroy New York City and even criticized Biden for ignoring his pleas for financial help. He accused Biden of providing no support for the thousands of asylum seekers arriving every month.

Adams went on to say, "I'm gonna tell you something, New Yorkers, never in my life have I had a problem that I didn't see an ending to. I don't see an ending to this. This issue

will destroy New York City. Destroy New York City.”

He then blasted Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for having the nerve to send illegal aliens to a sanctuary city. “Go item-for-item on what Eric Adams ran for as a candidate and look at what we accomplished in twenty months: We turned this city around in twenty months, and then what happened? Started with a madman down in Texas who decided he wanted to bus people up to New York City.”

Madman huh? It’s laughable what clowns politicians like Adams become. The reality is Adams turned nothing around in twenty months. Truth be told, almost every measure of crime in the city is worse, largely because of Adam’s arrogance and defiance. How long did he think governors who were struggling daily with the immigration problem were going to stand for being mocked by loudmouth liberals like himself?

Since Adams loves to brag, now he can brag about being ranked number one in something else. The Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI) compiles data and ranks sanctuary cities. In 2019, New York was ranked as the second worst sanctuary community. Since then, the city has doubled down on its dangerous policies and has earned the number one spot on the IRL list.

Congratulations New York: You are the Most Dangerous Sanctuary Community in America!

IRIL’s Executive Director and General Counsel Dale Wilcox explained the ranking system: “These communities have earned their places on this list because of incredibly poor leadership at the city, county, and state levels. Data overwhelmingly shows that sanctuary policies lead to more crime, fear, and death. The leaders of these communities should not escape accountability for the damage they have caused. Their residents deserve much more.”

Wilcox is correct: the citizens do deserve much more, but they won’t find it in Chicago. After watching Beetlejuice doppelganger Lori Lightfoot destroy the town, the citizens of the windy city discovered that they hadn’t reached the bottom of the barrel yet and elected Brandon Johnson.

Chicago has taken to housing illegals in police stations, and just last week it was reported that some of those being sheltered were committing crimes against the officers sheltering them. Ironical, isn’t it? At least those folks won’t have to move. The crimes ranged from theft of police equipment to assault and battery.

Related: N.Y. Gov. Hochul Calls for Help From Biden to Deal With Migrants, Blames Texas for the Crisis

Chicago has been sheltering immigrants in schools, police stations, and anywhere possible for months, but the problems are getting worse. With people in such tight quarters, tensions are bound to rise. Fights are not uncommon and neither is crime. Drug dealing, assaults, prostitution, and robberies have increased. Residents have been pushed to the brink and are threatening to take matters into their own hands if circumstances don’t improve. The problem is that circumstances won’t improve, because Johnson will not concede that providing asylum for people here illegally places everyone, including the illegals, in danger.

Then there are the health care issues. Sources have admitted that many illegal aliens are ill with diseases ranging from conjunctivitis to the flu and/or COVID-19. The issue is complicated because many of the migrant children are enrolled in school, and as we all know, that scenario allows for the rapid spread of any disease.

Never fear, though; Johnson thinks he has a solution. He has asked all fifty council members to locate a two-acre parcel of ground in their wards that will accommodate a large tent. The tents would house over two hundred immigrants and would include heating and cooling units, water hookups, and a mess hall.

Right, because nothing says progress like a tent city. Immigrant and Refugee Rights Committee Chairman Alderman Andre Vasquez is apparently just as delusional as Johnson. He commented, "I think what should be made clear is, because of the scale we are looking at, everyone needs to share in the responsibility."

Alderman David Moore disagrees. He believes that you have a responsibility to take care of residents first. "I'm a believer in help your people first, help yourselves first, help your community first. Then, reach out and help others."

Moore is absolutely correct. That's the same reason why, if you're in an airplane and the oxygen masks drop down, you put yours on first so you have the ability to help others.

The leaders of these cities have no one to blame but themselves. They practically begged for this invasion by placing their egos ahead of their citizens. By continuing to govern in this irresponsible manner, they are only compounding an already dangerous problem.

Sanctuary cities must be eliminated, the border must be closed, and anyone remaining here illegally must be deported. We are a nation of legal immigrants who came to this country looking for a better life and anxious to contribute to American society. Those who come here illegally are already sending a signal that American laws don't apply to them. In far too many cases, they are not arriving to contribute, but only to take.

There is some light at the end of the tunnel, Chicago: Kamala Harris is arriving tomorrow for a campaign event.

That should help.

2.9.15 ACLU Lawyer Makes Unbelievable Claim About 85K Missing Migrant Children (2023-09-13 22:54)

Lee Gelernt, the deputy director for the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants' Rights Project, testified to the House Homeland Security Committee on Wednesday the over 85,000 unaccompanied migrant children that the federal government has lost track of are not really "missing."

Gelernt was questioned multiple times by Republican members on how he can justify claiming the ACLU does not believe the tens of thousands of children are not in danger.

Gelernt maintained each time he believes the children's sponsors are simply not picking up the phone from a government agency because they are scared of the government.

"It's interesting to me that you just make the assumption that because the sponsors aren't answering the phone that you guys don't believe these 85,000 kids are missing," Rep. Eli Crane (R-AZ) said to Gelernt.

"That's based on talking to people and years of working in this area, that sponsors generally do not like answering the phone from a government agency or do not know who's calling. But our belief is that these are not children who are lost," Gelernt replied, adding the federal government does do background checks.

Gelernt's assertions are not true, based on reporting from the New York Times. In their in-depth story, the Times [1]revealed those who worked with or for the federal government who tried to raise the alarm over lack of vetting to sponsors, some of whom were getting multiple kids, were fired after trying to put a stop to it.

Jalyn Sualog, who was the most senior career member Health and Human Service's division responsible for unaccompanied migrant children under the Biden administration, said she was moved out of her position after she tried to warn the federal government of the lack of vetting.

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/17/us/politics/migrant-child-labor-biden.html>



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